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GUARDIAN

A Journal of BDSM Realities

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how to hurt a guy!

Marked Men Down Under

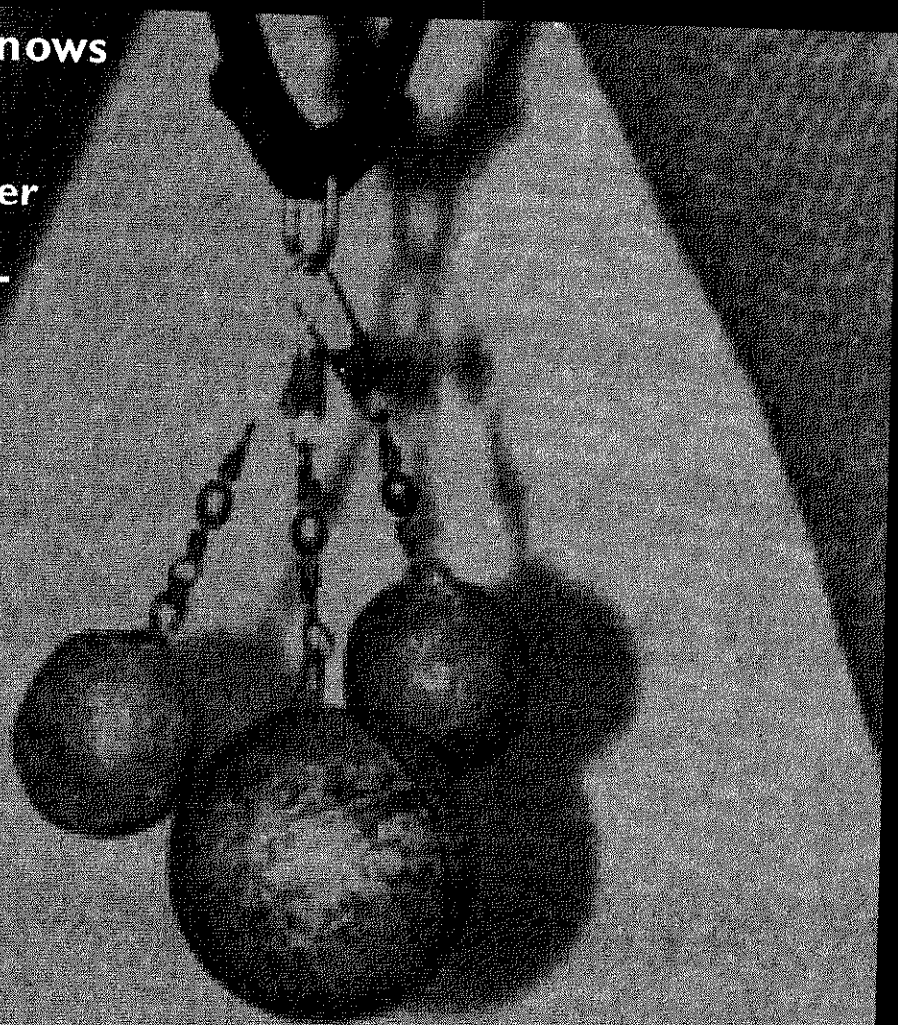
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The SandMUTopian Guardian #33

Centerfold

The Ultimate Spreader Bar, *Mitch Kessler*26

Practical

Male Genitorture, First of a Series, *Tony DeBlase* 6
 Playing with Chopsticks, *Kenneth*11
 How's Your IRC IQ, an Overview of Online Chat, *Cherlyn*12
 Poppers: How to tie one on, *Mitch Kessler*24
 Marked Men: Tattooing Down Under, *Michael Masterson*20
 How Mistress Sxy Sadist Travels - Carry cases40
 Scholarly Writings on BDSM, Part II, *Michael Marks, PhD*42

Relationships

Eti-quiz, Part III: How are your BDSM Manners? *The Vakeshes* . .44
 Slavery in the Scene: an African-American Perspective, *Mme.Kitt* .18
 The Sound of Two Hands Clapping, *Cecilia Tan*28

Community Matters

Legal Cases:

Chris Scanlon, Florida clubs38
 NLA: Portland chapter is no more47

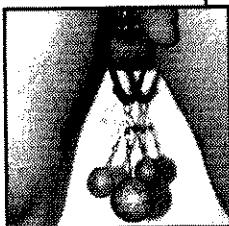
News and Reviews

Book Reviews:

Juice, *Uncle Abdul* Reviewed by *Tony DeBlase*32

About the Cover:

In 1993, **Tony DeBlase** addressed the issues of **Male Genitorture** in his **DungeonMaster** Magazine, and excerpted parts for his **SandmUtopia Guardian**. Above is a more revealing version as photographed by **Stephen Sutton** at that time.



Regular Features

Publishers Message:

What happened in Dallas, Willie? . . . 5
 IMHO: Anything!, *Screamer*50
 S/Mart Shopper.36
 Condom Cannon, Rope Ratchet, Readers' Tips
 We Can't Make These Things Up!34
 Dreamweaver, Head chastity, Domme Camel
 Letters to THE GUARDIAN 4
 Adam & Gillian's Corner. 48

Letters to **THE GUARDIAN** ~Our Readers' Forum

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Jesus and Sexuality

While reading #25, I came across this very interesting letter from "BN" of Arizona, a male heterosexual sadist. He mused what it would have been like if Jesus had been a woman. He asked, "Do gay male or het female sadists, get turned on by actual crucifixes, paintings, etc., or is there some kind of European cultural taboo that prevents this? Or is there the opposite effect, where the sacrilege provides an extra edge to the turn-on?"

This question started a whole train of thought. I spent 17 years as a practicing born-again Christian. Now divorced I don't go to church and have a lot of questions. I have a BDSM relationship where I am usually the sub.

From time to time while I was a practicing Christian, a thought would go through my head of giving head to Jesus. I always found it troubling. It wasn't a turn-on. I experienced it as a sin and sought to cast it out. It was an annoyance. Now it doesn't bother me at all ... but also doesn't interest me.

When I saw pictures or movies of Jesus hanging on the cross or being flogged or tortured I never thought of it sexually. BN's letter & the train of thought it started has put a whole new light on the Christian culture. It seems that it is very BDSM-oriented but simultaneously totally suppressed. How twisted up Christians are... Thanks to BN for the enlightenment brought by his question.

Tina Rock

Changes in BDSM

As for *The Guardian*, I'm trying to get people here to subscribe. Most don't seem interested. That's one of the strange ways in which the BDSM community has changed. Ten or more years ago we all read, and read anything we could get our hands on about BDSM. Most people in the discussion groups I've met more recently haven't read anything except in chat rooms! I think that's actually the main reason why *Screw the Roses* ... is such a popular book. People don't have to *read* it, they can just look at the pictures and cartoons! God that's depressing.

*Steve
TN*

Local Leather Stores Close

We went to our local Tandy-crafts store to pick up some black dye to find it in the midst of a close-out sale. The manager told us that all their stores were closing. On the web I found the following:

"Tandycrafts, a diversified retail and manufacturing company, is closing its 125+leathercrafts stores and the plant that supplied them with belts and buckles, kits and leather-working tools. The company will continue to sell leather items wholesale to other retailers and to operate its mail order business."

Most of the "make your own toys" folk we know started by walking into Tandy and use Tandy as their main supplier. The closings will be a tremendous blow to the do-it-at-home market, especially those (like us in the beginning) who don't know what they want and

need to be up close with the leather to touch it and feel it before buying. As far as I know, most cities don't have other leathercraft stores, so this is going to make the impulsive decision to make a flogger more difficult.

*Carolyn
Bedroom Whips*

Happy Guardian Readers!

How happy we are that we stumbled upon *The Guardian*. We began our intense interest in DS/SM a couple of years ago and really had no clue. Since we wanted some ideas and practical knowledge, we stuck to primarily non-fiction material. We ordered some back issues of *The Guardian* and found them to be very enlightening.

We particularly enjoy the how-to's and the practical ideas we find. Even though My Lady and I have been married for 26 years, we are learning more methods and techniques thanks to you.

We found issue, #32 to be the most informative issue to date for our interests. My Lady especially enjoyed the article on the "Brat Submissive," (since I guess that really does pertain to me!) and the article on *Domination* by Cleo DuBois. She hopes you will publish more articles by Ms. DuBois.

I was totally enthralled in the articles on Fire Cupping! This was a unique method of play. It scared us a little at first but I couldn't wait to try it. "Alcohol flames? You've got to be crazy," I was informed. However, after trying it on myself, my wife

was quite amused. So amused in fact, that I'm sure in the near future it will be introduced to me in full by her. The technique is very easily done and really isn't complicated at all. It is amazing the suction that these cups can produce without any burning sensation whatever. If we can do it, anyone can.

*Sandy and Dave
IL*

**You write 'em,
we'll print 'em!
Keep those cards and
letters comin' in!**

Obituary

It is with sadness that we tell you the major marketer of the **Violet Wand**, **Donnie Rice** died in an accident in California in November of 1998, while on a field trip with the Mineralogical Society. A memorial service was held for him in the Angeles National Forest, attended by friends and family. His wife Le has requested that memorial donations be made to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles in

his name which will be applied to a permanent adoption of a mineral specimen which will be exhibited in their Mineral Sciences gallery. **Erotec**, the company founded by Donnie is now being run by Le and her son Tommy. "They are both dedicated to continuing Donnie's tradition of offering high quality products that offer hours of fun and safe play."

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From the Publishers

What happened in Dallas, Willie?

Well ... actually, it was Boston where Arthur Miller's character Willie Loman committed the secret sin that haunted the rest of his unfulfilled and essentially futile life. But the parallel is valid. If you want to tease one of the SS&C Generation's Elder Statespersons — just ask, "What Happened in Dallas, guy?" (Or gal.) The reply may be copious and explosive ... but almost certainly *not* "informative."

Over the years we at *The Guardian* have asked any number of people we know who attended the 1988 "Safe Sane and Consensual Adults" Conference in Dallas — aka "The Texas Range War," what issues and personalities clashed so disastrously that no one seems willing to break the Code of Silence that surrounds the event. Some will not even confirm or deny that they were there! That's why we're asking our readers: "What Happened In Dallas, Willie??"

We're proceeding on the pop-psych theory that, "The Secret You Keep is the Thing That Keeps You Sick." It's an important question because whatever happened in Dallas probably shaped *all* later political development of the leather/BDSM/Fetish Community ... including its curious admixture of personal power networks operating within purportedly democratic organizational structures ... and its addiction to secrecy.

This aversion to, "citing facts and naming names,"

may have originated with a powerful "12-Step" faction in Dallas. Exactly who? and How many? is, naturally, one of the secrets. But this matters, because the "Recovery" community has strongly held views that although there may in fact be hierarchal power structures within an "Anonymous" organization ... it should be of no interest or importance to members outside the hierarchy. Neither "personalities" nor "politics" are things that, "help keep you sober" — a self evident proposition.

However, if the common language of the most influential Leather Leaders was, and is, "AA-Speak" ... expecting Community culture to reflect Thomas Jefferson's ideas about freedom of thought and the need to control power-elites, would *also* be a threat to one's Sobriety — or at least one's emotional equilibrium.

Still ... it established a tradition that now results in from-the-top-down non-communication such as that offered in, "Their Own Words," pg 47, in this issue" (with more to come in future issues) — which are *also* disturbing.

As we close the books on the millennium, we will be trying to tie up a lot of loose ends. We invite contributions from our readers to set the record straight, so to speak in documenting the past two or three decades. If you still cannot have your name in print, we understand, but we will need to know who you are for our files. ♦

Gerrie and Mitch

Male Genitorture

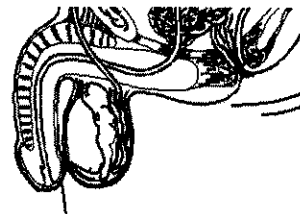
Part I of a series

by Tony DeBlase aka Fledermaus

.....

"As a sadist I can say without equivocation, there is nothing in the world I find more beautiful than the look of pain on a man's face as my hand is crushing his balls."

Editor's Note: This information appeared originally in early issues of both The Sandmutopia Guardian and DungeonMaster. We asked the author to revisit the topic.



The old saying, "when you have him by his balls his heart and mind will follow," has a great deal of truth.

The external genitalia are the most sensitive part of any man's body. They are also among his most "private" parts. To manhandle another man's cock and balls is to take possession of the essence of him; to threaten those parts with pain and torture is to threaten his core.

As a college student in the early '60's I read JFK's favorite author, Ian Fleming, and found in *Casino Royale* one of the best descriptions of male genitorture ever, though no exact mention of the genitals is ever made. Naturally, Fleming could not let his hero's "heart and mind" follow. Instead, James Bond stoically endures until a third party kills his torturer and he is sequestered in a private clinic where a doctor tells him, "Your injuries are serious, but your life is not in danger... If all goes well, you will recover completely and none of the functions of your body will be impaired. ... But I fear that you will continue to be in pain for several days..."

Genital Bondage

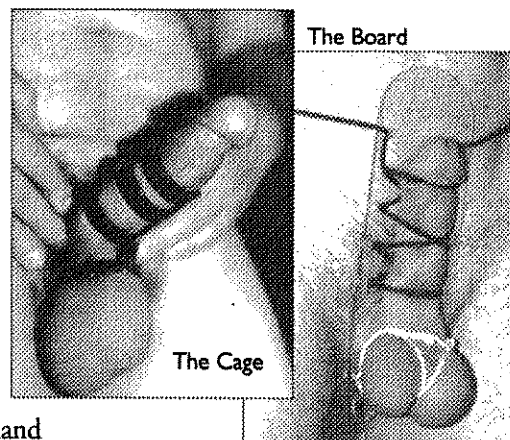
A cock ring is basic genital bondage. From there we can move on to a huge variety of cock and ball harnesses, sheaths, stretchers, separators, pouches, etc. available in leather/toy shops. Many of these can also be created with rope, chain, thong, string, plastic wrap, tape, elastic bandages, strips of cloth, etc.. Whatever the bondage medium, or the precise design, bondage serves one or more various objectives:

Confinement, can be a primary objective of genital bondage: to confine the genitals, either for the sensation of enclosure, for the

restriction of access, or for both. The restriction may be to prevent masturbation, prevent an erection, or in other ways serve as a chastity device. Techniques for this range from the infibulation of Roman slaves, the literal pinning shut of the foreskin over the glans, to highly sophisticated padlocking leather and steel chastity garments.

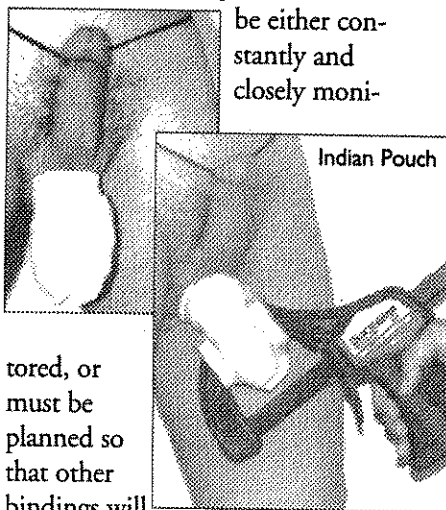
Attachment: to attach the cock and/or balls to something else. This may be to a Master's hand via a leash, to an immovable object, or a weight. A cock/ball stocks is a small, usually wooden device, similar to that used by the Puritans for

ankles or heads and hands. This one is sized to accept cock and balls, or balls alone, and usually comes equipped with numerous rings so that it may be tied in place. A similar result may be achieved by putting a man facing a chain link fence or similar grating. Pass his cock and balls, or balls alone through the fence and then securely lock on a collar, tie with rope or somehow make it impossible for the cock and balls to be withdrawn. With no further bondage this provides wild sensations of being trapped. He can flail his arms, beat at the fence, kick it, move in every way possible except pull his hips away from the fence.



Unfortunately, such bondage can be quite dangerous. If he faints, or falls for other reasons, his genitals could be severely damaged. Any gen-

ital bondage that pits the body weight against the genital ties must



be either constantly and closely moni-

tored, or must be planned so that other bindings will

hold the body weight and not transfer this totally to the bound genitals.

Torment, in and of itself, is the third possible objective: when the bondage is itself pain-producing. Usually this is caused by stretching and/or squeezing the genital components, usually with the objective of putting painful pressure on the testicles. Cock and ball devices, or techniques of cord bondage that achieve the same purposes include: wrapping the cock ring area to pull both cock and scrotum away from the body, wrapping the neck of the scrotum to pull the testicles down or out and away from the cock and body, wrapping the scrotum so that the two testicles are pulled away from each other. These individually or in combination put pressure on testicles, stretch the skin, increasing its sensitivity, and put a pulling sensation on the spermatic cords.

The variant that achieves similar results is, instead of wrapping in bondage to stretch and separate, wrapping to push together and crush. Thus the cock and balls together, or the scrotum by itself, may be mummified in plastic wrap and tape, or in elastic bandages. I have also read of an American Indian torture that involved soaking

a piece of rawhide and then sewing it up to tightly encase a victim's scrotum. As it dries, it shrinks, increasing pressure. I'm going to have to try this some day. I have also wondered about wrapping the scrotum in something like a small blood pressure cuff and then inflating, but have not tried this.

Release from bondage also can be painful—from the reawakening of pinched nerves and from the physical movements. One of my favorites is The Windmill. I wrap a cock and/or scrotum with repeated turns of a single strand, taking care to layer things on so that when I am done I can pull on the free end and the cord will rapidly unwind sending the bound members flying round and around as it does!

One final bondage pain producer is that engendered by tiny teeth, blunt studs, or other objects trapped between the skin and the binding. These might be sharp but very short teeth embedded in the leather, or could be a handful of gravel added under the elastic bandages around a scrotum.

Surface Sensations

Torturing the skin covering the genital organs is quite different from torturing the organs themselves. Many of the usual types of genitor-ture are tortures of this skin which is highly vascular and rich in nerve endings.

Feathers, soft-bristled brushes or other similar devices can provide stimulation to these nerve endings without abrading the skin. To get a bit heavier, abrasion is a very useful technique on the extremely sensitive skin of the glans, and on other genital skin when it is stretched and held immobile by bondage. Use emery boards or other disposable abrasives so that body fluids are not transferred. Chemicals such as Vick's

Vapor Rub™, Ben Gay™, Tiger Balm™, Mentholatum™, Icy Hot™, and the like, can provide similar sensations, often longer lasting. An oft cited frat hazing technique is to apply some such ointment to the pledge's genitals, pack them up in a jock strap then send him off to his classes to suffer through the day.

Heat and cold can also provide fine torture for genital skin, particularly when applied in rapid succession. The first issue of *Dungeon Master* (now available through *Checkmate* magazine) included an article on alternately dipping the scrotum and/or cockhead into glasses of ice water and hot, but not scalding, water. Alternation of an ice cube and a hot mouth can have a similar effect. Chemical heat and cold packs, available from well stocked drug stores can also be used. For heat alone hot candle wax is good. The greater the distance the



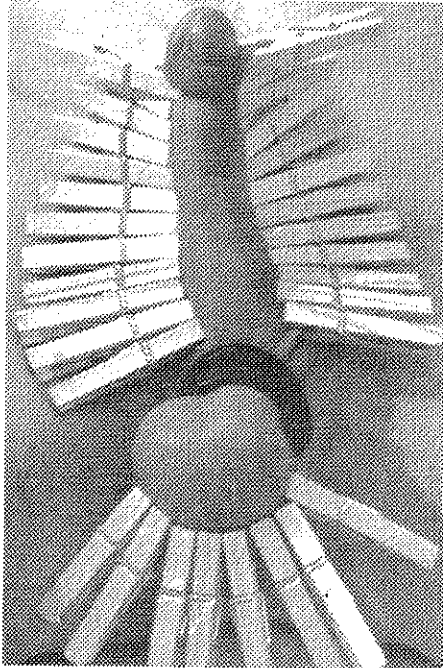
wax is dripped, the cooler it is on contact. There is also great difference between small drips and a pour of accumulated melted wax from a votive or other fat candle. (For more on hot wax, see *Guardian* #25)

Taking the heat up a notch, the genitals are always a prime target for

continued on pg 8

Genitorture

torture with cigars and cigarettes. Activities can range from singeing pubic hair, through various threatening applications of the burning ember closer and closer to the tender



skin, to actually inflicting a first degree burn that raises a blister. Burns that do more than blister the skin are not for Safe, Sane, Consensual play — but for real torture and for special ritual markings. Open flame, as from a match or lighter, can be used in the same way as a cigar or cigarette, but it is much harder to control.

Lastly there is burning with a heated piece of metal. The genitals do not seem to be an appropriate site for branding, the skin needs to be elastic and scar tissue is not. However, small light metal that does not hold too much heat, or cover much skin, such as a bent paper clip, could be used to temporarily brand genital skin, including the cockhead. And, I like to use an electric wood-burning tool (with a rheostat to control temperature) to threa-

continued from pg 7

ten a securely bound set of genitals the same way I would use a cigar.

Pinching the skin is a common torture, too often caused *unintentionally* by hurriedly applied bondage. Intentional pinching might come from the fingers or from clothespins or other clamps which grip a bit of skin. Since the genital skin is so loosely attached, and so elastic, it is an ideal area for clothespin torture. The smaller and sharper the bite of the clamp, the greater the pain it will cause. The tiny plastic "genital tormentor" clips available in stationery stores, are particularly vicious. The application of the clamps can be painful, leaving them on, particularly while frequently manipulating them can cause agony. But the real torture with clamps comes upon their removal. Again it is the sensation of pinched nerves waking up and regaining life.

Light whipping can also sting genital skin. My favorite cock whips are made of light leather thongs, horsehair, soft rubber, and similar materials that will sting the surface but not transfer pressure to the interior of the organ. I also like to use a leather slapper for very precise strikes at a firmly held cockhead, and a soft rubber hose of the sort sold for insulation of air conditioner lines, all over the genitals.

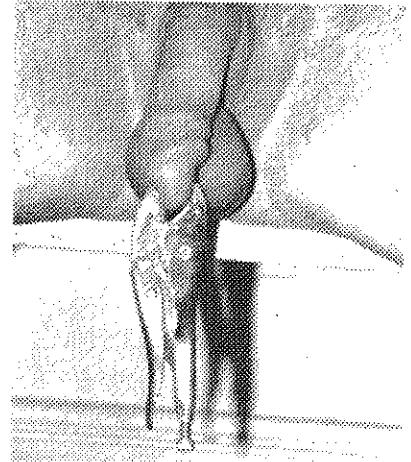
Cock Torture

The shaft of the penis can take a great deal of punishment when it is flaccid. However, the rigid cock is a rather delicate member. Stretch the flaccid cock out over a bondage table and flog away (obviously "meat" types provide the best target), or tie the balls back and out of the way and let it dangle down while you treat it like a *pinata* with

your hand or a stick or whatever. Squeeze it with your hands, twist it, jerk on it, try to tie it in a knot. I like to use test tube clamps, the kind with wing nuts to tighten them, or other large clamps on the cock shaft. All these are possible with the flaccid cock, but should never be used on a hard cock.

Think of a balloon. Empty or filled with air it will take a lot of squeezing, stretching and hitting. Fill it full of water and punch it and it bursts. The same with a cock: empty it is tough, but when filled with blood a *corpus callosum* can easily rupture and is a serious injury that is difficult to repair, ever!

The *corpus spongiosum* which makes up the body of the glans or cockhead is much tougher. It has a much denser structure with smaller openings to fill with blood, and it never becomes quite as firm as the *corpora callosa*. Thus the erect cockhead can take a great deal more punishment, more safely, than the cock



shaft. However, it is a small target and you must be quite precise. Clamps on the corona or other parts of the cockhead could be quite painful.

When clamping or beating the penis, hard or soft, it is best to confine the blows or clamp fingers to the top and sides of the shaft and avoid putting great pressure on the

underside of the cock. The urethra runs along this and its lining is tender and could be bruised by blows or a biting clamp finger. The nerves and blood vessels that parallel it are also more fragile than surrounding tissues. There is unlikely to be serious damage, but why cause any when it is so easily avoidable?

The foreskin, when present, is a rather special piece of skin because it is so accessible—on both sides. All of the above techniques can be used on it, particularly clamping. It is also uniquely available for stretching, this could be by use of clamps and weights to hang from them, insertion of rings around the cockhead under the foreskin, or use of a duck-bill vaginal speculum.

Testicle Torture

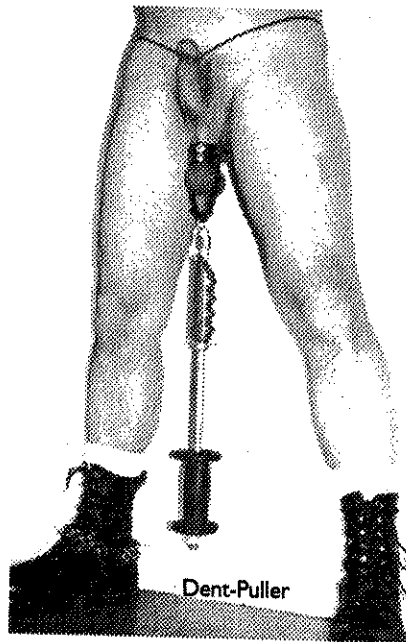
Aside from piercing and electricity, virtually all forms of testicle torture are variations on the application of pressure. Pressure from striking, squeezing, stretching—the nervous system's ability to interpret pressure on the testicles as pure, unmitigated, stomach-churning pain, makes a man's testicles his Achilles' heel for torture.

A human hand is a marvelous testicle torture tool—just grab them and squeeze. However, what often happens is that one of the slippery little buggers jumps out of the squeezing grip, causing shrieking in special pain as it does. This is an "Oops" and should not happen. To prevent it, first situate the nuts at the bottom of the scrotum, then twist the sac around 180°, or even a full 360°. Then squeeze. Now the nuts are trapped and are much less likely to escape the torturing hands. Even more efficient is to apply a ball stretcher or winding of cord to trap the balls in the base of the sac before beginning to squeeze.

The pressure can be applied in

a continuous fashion, as with a spring clamp; in jolts, as from a fist or truncheon; or in combination. Testicle beating can range from a fist, knee or kick to the crotch, to the maddening tapping of tightly bound testicles with a pencil. One heavy blow can provide gut wrenching agony that lasts a long time. Repeated light blows can provide a constant level of pain, and the anticipation of increase.

The testicles are somewhat plastic and will respond to pressure from one direction by bulging out



in another. For instance, if a clamp is applied, the initially intense pain will gradually lessen as the testicle accommodates to the pressure by expanding elsewhere. There are several ways to minimize this accommodation and keep the pain level intense. One is to frequently increase the pressure. I particularly like clamps with screws or other infinitely adjustable pressure plates. These can be tightened a minimal amount at frequent intervals to keep the pressure on both the balls and the mind of the victim. Spring-loaded clamps, including those using heavy elastic bands, also keep the pressure

on continuously. Moving the clamp around, tapping it with a stick, or jerking on it will also help wake up sleeping nerves.

If the pressure is coming from stretching, usually from dangling weights, the pressure can be varied by swinging the weights, by tapping them with a stick or otherwise making them vibrate, or by bouncing them. One of my favorite toys is an auto body shop dent-pulling hammer. This is a rod with a sliding circular weight. Hang it from the balls, raise the weight and let it fall the length of the rod, thudding to a stop at the bottom. When he recovers do it again. They come in a variety of sizes and weights.

Naturally there are limits to the amount of weight that can be supported by the scrotum. What are those limits? I don't know, because I do not know of anyone who has exceeded them. I am certain that a man's body weight would be too much, particularly if applied with a jerk, as with a fall.

However, I do know a man who used to tie a rope around his chest under the arms, pass it up through a ring in the ceiling and then down to his scrotum. He would support himself above the floor, face up, by arms and legs then slowly lift his arms and legs until he hung just by his shoulders and his balls. This is much more weight than I think most could stand, but he did it. We used to have a ball weight lift contest at Inferno, an annual retreat of the Chicago Hellfire Club. One year there was a three-way tie for first place with all three finalists lifting 83 pounds! (The only weight we had left to add was five pounds and none of the three could lift 88 pounds.) That was the last year we had the contest because we were afraid that someone

continued on pg 10

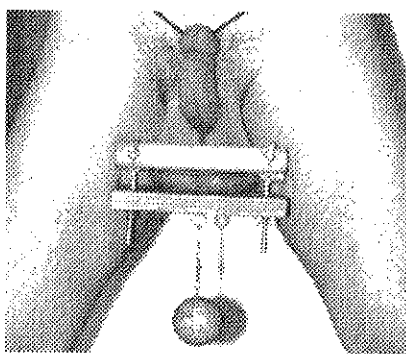
Genitorture

continued from pg 9

would do serious injury trying to lift more. The injury here is probably not to the testicles themselves but to the spermatic cord and its component parts.

There are probably as many designs for ball crushers as there are for mousetraps. According to legend Nazi interrogators had many variations. The main problems with most designs are keeping the balls correctly positioned between the crusher plates, providing uniform pressure, and positioning the contraption on the body. (Various designs have been discussed in *DungeonMaster*, and some are illustrated here.) Illus

While I love the feel of a man's scrotum in my hands. I have come to the realization that I can torture a man's balls more efficiently if I wrap them first in an elastic bandage. Start by wrapping the neck of the scrotum to form something of a



ball stretcher, then wrap the balls themselves. Stretch the bandage as you wrap and its inherent elasticity applies pressure to the balls. This pressure is coming evenly from all sides so there is no accommodation and it is unrelenting. The major advantage is that the balls are stabilized inside the scrotum. They can no longer slide over each other or slip away from pressure points. Thus wrapped I can squeeze with my hands, punch with a fist, beat with a stick or other tool, or clamp with

any variety of crushers. The bandage keeps everything in a neat and compact package ideal for torture.

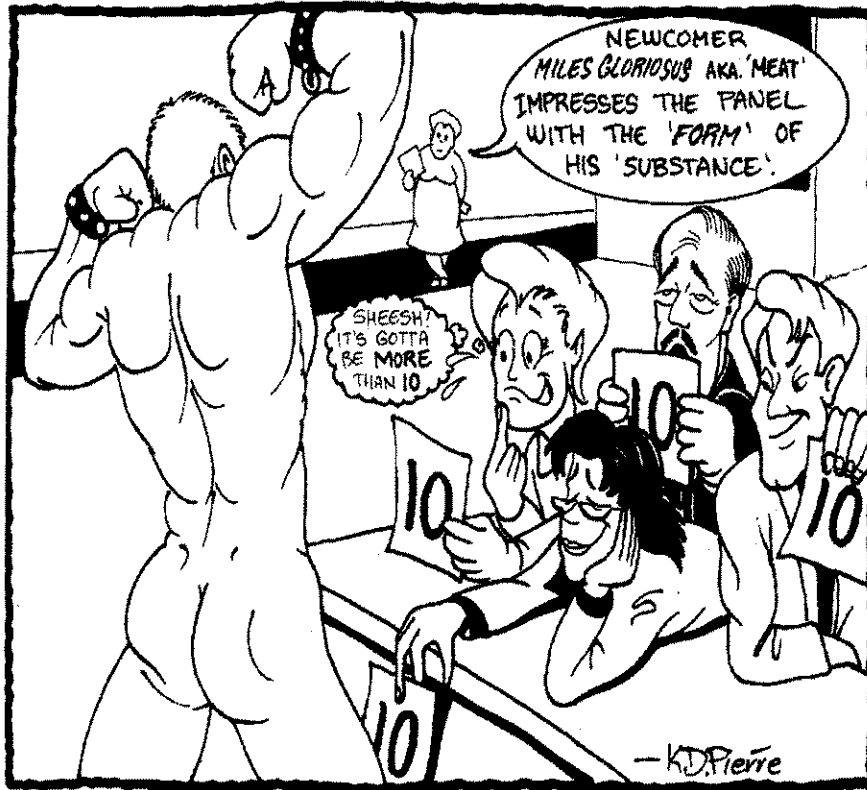
(The fibrous capsule encasing the testicles is very tough, but it can be ruptured. This is a very serious injury, immensely painful and generally resulting in the loss of the testicle. The only cases of ruptured testicles I know of were caused by sharp blows which trapped the striking force against a hard surface. The usual cause has been a knee to the crotch, catching the testicle between the punishing knee and the owner's pubic bone. But it could just as well be caused by laying them out on a bondage board and hitting them with a truncheon, or by tightening a crusher too tightly. In the latter case it is likely the victim would pass out before the ball ruptures.)

Tortured testicular tissues can and do swell. A bottom into ball torture should have a good idea of how his balls react to various amounts of punishment and, if there are potential problems here, should communicate these to the Top in advance of a scene. Some heavy bottoms love the feeling of swollen balls for days after a scene, but I would caution them that this should not happen too frequently or there might be permanent damage. And too severe a swelling inside the testicular capsule can cause just as much pain as pressure from the outside, and could even cause rupture.

(Tony DeBlase, aka Fledermaus, is one of the foremost authorities in the scene on male genitorture techniques. He is also our Founder, the first publisher of The Guardian.)

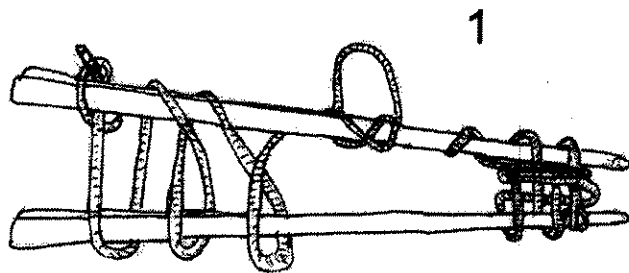
[In future issues, he will explore more sophisticated male genitorture techniques, such as simulated emasculation, urethral invasion, electrotorture and piercing.]

SCENES FROM THE WESTMINSTER SUBMISSIVE SHOW



Chop sticks C&B

By Kenneth



I have always had a special spot in my libido for the Asian Mistress, so aspects of Geisha training, HoJo Jitsu, and other Eastern skills have strong appeal for me. The use of simple chopsticks as bondage devices has proved to be one of my favorite rewards for this passion. Once you try them I am sure your mind and fingers will uncover one fiendishly beautiful use after another. This article will simply demonstrate a basic use for cock and ball restraint and display enhancement.

Obtaining chopsticks simple. Asian or ethnic food sections of most supermarkets sell them by the bag — or save them from your take-out orders. While there buy a ball of the twine used for binding poultry for about one dollar. Where else can you purchase all the basics for hours of pleasure for under \$5.00?

Chopsticks are sold as nesting pairs. Sometimes a rough edge is left when breaking them apart and should be touched up with sandpaper or a paring knife. The roughness is meaningless but splinters can be a serious disruption. For cock and ball bondage I prefer the larger size most used in take-out restaurants, though it is nice to have various sizes available. It is fun to tease or be teased

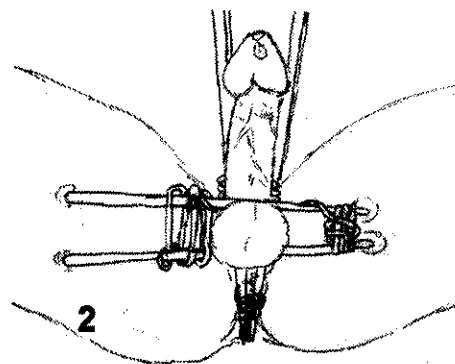
by the reminder of past and future scenes while eating Sweet and Sour and sticks can easily be washed and re-used. Chopstick cases make a charming display in a playroom.

To play!

Fig. #1 shows the basic preparation. You can put both small ends together or reverse them which I prefer, as twine can slip from two slender ends. Take a 12-20" piece of twine, shoe lace, or thin thong, make a loop over one end and three or four diagonal turns or "warps" around both sticks. Then bring the strands down between the two sticks and around the warps, tightening or "frapping" them. Three warps and two or three fraps will do the trick. We're not building a Boy Scout tower! Take the twine down one stick simply to get to the far end.

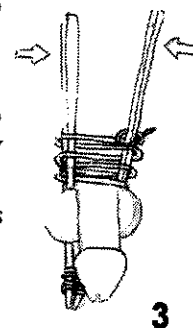
With the man on his back, take the untied ends of the sticks and pull out, creating a V with the small end near his anus and the cock and balls in the V. Pull up and in starting below the scrotum so the pressure herds the testicles up and in place. Then still pulling toward his chest, close the ends by squeezing and making a series of S turns with the twine about both sticks and pressing the S's down to the base of the cock (Fig.#3) The two sticks will be about the width of his cock which will lay on the lashings as on a stretcher. The small end will angle down to just above his anus. Press-

ing, pulling, vibrating either end will cause different sensations and present the package in different ways. Next, prepare another set of sticks, this time allowing slightly less tension to the warps but frapping an extra turn or two because these will be the horizontal sticks which have dual purpose and need to be slightly wider. The cock and balls are well packaged now. This pair is spread and placed across the groin with the balls between them—one stick will be under the bottom of the scrotum, its mate above the scrotum and tied in place. The ends of this pair are placed to spread the thighs apart.



Though they seem very light and are easily snapped apart by flexion, chopsticks when joined can exert quite a bit of pressure and care should be taken that they are secure without pinching or crushing, particularly when weights are attached. I hope no one stops with this basic technique but continue to add embellishments to the art. Sticks can be used on cunt lips, nipples, nose, ears, tongue. They can be used to immobilize fingers and toes. I have yet to come to the limit of their uses. Try them.

(Kenneth welcomes responses and ideas. Write him here at *The Guardian*)



What's Your IRC IQ?

An overview of the Internet online chat channels

by Cherlyn

IRC (Internet Relay Chat) is just one of many resources on the Internet for BDSM communities to come together, very popular because of its availability and ease of use. IRC allows a user to interact in real time with other users also on the system. Once you've logged onto IRC, you can either join a "channel" and have a group discussion with many other users, or you can carry on a one-on-one conversation with another individual. To communicate, you type words and sentences which appear on the computer screen of the other user(s).

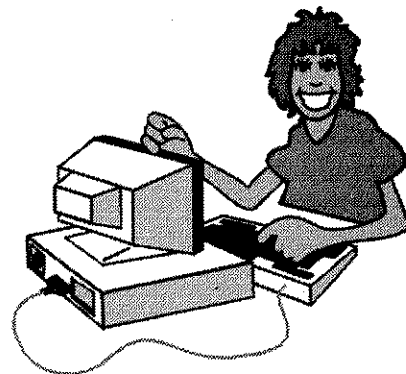
There are a great many group discussions. There are channels for computer-talk, sci-fi, 40-somethings, support groups, and of course, sex related channels. Not surprisingly, the sex channels are probably the most abundant. (Since IRC is a completely unmoderated forum, you will undoubtedly see some channels dealing with controversial subjects, including incest, pedophilia, homosexuality, and fetishes of all natures.) Some are *very* specialized: for instance, there are channels for BDSM Personal Ads, channels where you can hold a pretend BDSM play session with another user, some that hold cyber-auctions of submissives, people looking for phone-play, people interested in humiliation or bondage, group sex, gay or lesbian BDSM, chastity belt fantasies, or female superiority. There are also channels which function as a place for users to meet and exchange erotic image files and text stories. If you don't see a channel that suits your tastes, you can start your own.

Getting Started

If you're not already on the Internet, now is a good time to become involved. It seems daunting at first to everyone, but the only way to master it is to jump in and start learning. The first thing you need is a reliable modem and subscribe to an **Internet Service Provider**, (ISP) a company who will sell you dial-up internet access for \$15 - \$20 a month in most areas. Once you are wired, you'll need to download an IRC "client" — the computer program you use to connect to IRC. The most

popular client for Windows is called "mIRC," and can be found on the web at <http://www.mirc.com>. If you're on a Mac, download a copy of "Ircle," at: <http://www.xs4all.nl/~ircle/>.

Operating information comes with the programs. Both mIRC and Ircle are "shareware." You can download and use them for a trial period, and then pay the \$15 or \$20 shareware fee if you plan to continue using them.



If you don't see a channel that suits your tastes, you can start your own.

Networks & Servers

IRC itself is split onto several different networks. The three largest, EFnet, UnderNet, and DALnet, offer the greatest variety of topics and people. Many people prefer smaller nets, and there are nearly a hundred to pick from. For each large network, there are many "servers" — just as a

building may have many doors — some more reliable than others. In general, you should pick a server that is physically as close as possible to where you live. For the larger networks, there should be at least one server for any given area of the country, and several on other continents. The documentation that comes with each IRC client explains servers and networks and how to connect to them.

EFnet is the largest, and also the oldest of the IRC networks and offers the greatest variety of people and channels. At any given time, EFnet may have several thousand channels, and nearly a hundred thousand users! DALnet is the smallest and newest of the top three and it's probably the most user-friendly. The DALnet servers run operations called "services" which keep track of channels and "nicks" (screen names); you can even send a memo to someone if they're not online — like mini-

email. Unfortunately, DALnet occasionally experiences service lapses. Undernet is between the other two in terms of size and reliability. All three offer a variety of BDSM channels. In addition, there is BDSMnet, formed in 1998 — a network devoted *entirely* to kink, with about 80 BDSM-related channels.

Nicks, etc.

The first thing you have to think about once on IRC is your Nick (short for nickname). It's the calling card by which you'll be identified and remembered, and you should pick something original and distinct. You can change it at any time, but doing so too often becomes confusing for others. For most networks, it needs to have nine or fewer alphanumeric characters (A-Z and 0-9) and some special other characters.

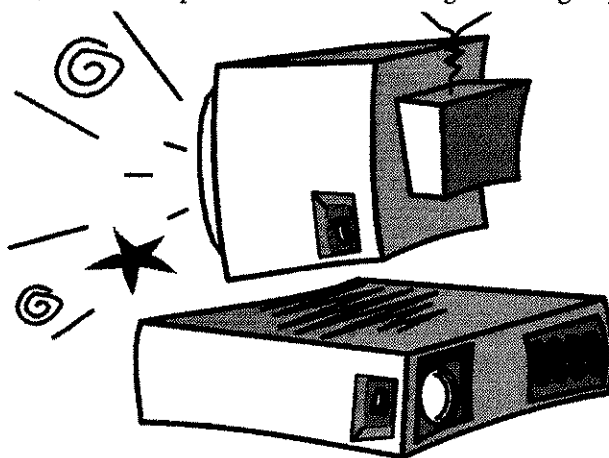
In BDSM channels, follow the capitalization convention: dominants start their nick with a capital letter; submissives' nicks are all lower-case. This is a very important tradition to many users, and many channels insist on this. Be sure, when you refer to another user, that you maintain the convention in order not to offend. Beyond capitalization, many dominants and submissives use nicks that *sound* very domly or subbish, such as those that begin with Master or Ms, or nicks that contain "pet" or "sub" or "slut." Many use nicks that identify their particular interests or fetishes in a clever way. Some submissives have nicks that mark them as the property of a particular dominant. It needs to be original and clever, because only one person on a network at a time can have any particular nick, and it's first-come, first served. DALnet and BDSMnet however, will allow you to register a nick so that no one else can use it.

Other things you may want to consider about your IRC persona is your *-realname-* and your *-userinfo-* values. Your realname appears next to your connection information when someone does a "whois" query of you, the most common way of gathering information about a user. Many people use their first name as their realname, few use their full names. Others use a personal webpage URL, an indication that they are involved in a BDSM or alternative lifestyle, or a short self-description. Keep in mind that most networks limit your realname to approximately 40 characters. Your *-userinfo-* is displayed when someone does a userinfo query of you. Not all clients support it but it can hold as much information as you want. Documentation that comes with your client will tell you how to set them up.

Channels

Once you're up and running you may want to start

meeting people. Your IRC client can give you a list of channels that are available, along with how many users are in each channel, and the current channel *-topic-*. The *-name-* of the channel, which is preceded with a # (numerical sign), is the general subject of discussion that takes place. You can be in as many channels as you like at the same time, but overdoing it may become confusing. After you've joined, you'll see a *-userlist-* of other people that are also in the channel. Some names in the userlist will be colored differently, identifying them as *-ops-*, the users that are in charge of maintaining the channel — they set the channel topic, and can kick or ban you from the channel if you cause trouble, or even if you fail to follow an important rule (such as the capitalization convention). Also, the ops will sometimes distinguish one group



**TYPING IN ALL CAPITALS
is completely unacceptable;
it is equivalent to
SHOUTING online,**

of users from the others, and the nicks of these selected others will be yet a different color in the userlist. Often, all channel submissives are distinguished in this way, for easy recognition.

At first, the conversation scrolling by in a channel may be difficult to understand — it may even look like another language. Computer people are fond of using many abbreviations, and may also use technical lingo. Another standard practice is the use of "emoticons." Since people online can't hear your tone of voice, it helps to include a symbol with your commentary, to make sure that it's received in the spirit you intended. The most common emoticon is a smiley. It looks like this :) or :-)) a colon and an ending parenthesis, with or without a dash.

continued on pg 14

IRC overview

continued from pg 13

Looking at it sideways, it is a "happy face." There are many emoticons you can use to express happiness, sadness, surprise, irony, send a kiss, or make sure that everyone knows the comment you just made was not to be taken literally. It's best to stick to simple ones and use them sparingly. Emoticons can be used at the beginning or end of a statement or by themselves.

You may notice also that informal English is often used. Many users type simply in all lowercase letters (except to EMPHASIZE something or maintain the capitalization of a nick) and omit the periods at the ends of sentences. This is perfectly acceptable. TYPING IN ALL CAPITALS is completely unacceptable; it is equivalent to SHOUTING online, and will likely get you kicked from most channels.

Until you're comfortable with the ambiance and flow of conversation in the channel, it may be best for you to "lurk" and take note of how things are done. (*Ed. note: The term originated in the BBS world and is said to have originated with Adam Selene at The Utopian Network in the early '80's.*) Don't always expect users to be discussing what the channel name or topic implies. Many channel regulars know each other well, and enjoy making smalltalk. At other times, there may be a public cyber-scene with two or more people play-acting roles. Interrupting such scenes is considered very bad form. In some of the more stringent channels, submissives are expected to address dominants as "Sir" or "Ma'am." Sometimes submissives are expected to refer to themselves in the third person, and ask permission to enter and leave the channel. It is also common for female submissives to refer affectionately to each other as "sis".

Personal Messaging

If you want a one-on-one conversation, it is usually considered appropriate to ask within the channel first for permission. If this is a rule in a particular channel, it will usually be mentioned in the channel -topic-, or a -bot- (a channel robot that performs different functions) will send you a private message with a list of channel rules and conventions when you enter the channel. Even if it isn't mentioned, it can't hurt to ask permission first. Many dominants prefer being addressed by submissives as Sir or Ma'am, but if you don't feel comfortable with this, you shouldn't feel obligated. Likewise, it should not be

assumed that submissives will want to be addressed rudely, or will leap to follow your orders or will want to cyber-scene with you.

If you're trying to get someone's attention via a private message, realize that you may be competing with others, especially if the person in question is female. Introduce yourself, or perhaps ask a question. Also, if you allow the conversation to lag, there's a good chance the other person may lose interest or leave. On the other hand, if a user is becoming problematic or annoying, most clients will allow you to place that user on -ignore-, which will block any communication from him or her.

Beginning Your Search

It's best to keep in mind that among the BDSM Internet communities there is a diversity of people and ideas, so knowing how to approach someone may be difficult. For example, there are those looking for cyber-sex; others may become offended if you took for granted that they were looking for that. It's best to step lightly. Remember that people on IRC are looking for many different things — someone of a particular gender or age, perhaps a real-life partner, a casual online playmate, or simply someone with whom to discuss fantasies. Since the other person cannot see your expression, hear your tone of voice, or know anything about your past, it is advisable to be as direct and as clear as possible regarding yourself and what you are looking for. Doing so will increase your chance of success, help avoid miscommunication, and in

general make for a more pleasant IRC experience.

It's common for users to have personal digitized photos of themselves which they'll be

... it's best to be
clear and direct about
what you want.

willing to send you. Some people may want to send naked pictures of themselves, so let the person know if you would not be comfortable with that. Be aware that there is no way to guarantee that a picture someone sends you is actually of themselves — such deceit is unfortunately not uncommon. The same warning applies to self-descriptions, stated age, and even gender — take them with a grain of salt. The Internet is an escape for many who would pretend to be something they are not.

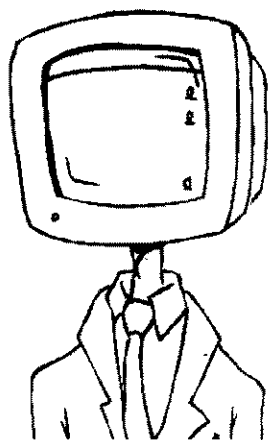
Cyber Scene-ing and Other Play

One of the most common online diversions is finding a partner and having cybersex. It's also referred to as cybering, sceneing, (or scening) or playing, and it goes on quite a bit within the BDSM IRC communities. The first thing to make sure of, when you're communicating with



another person on this topic, is that you're both talking about the same thing. Some users online are looking for cybersex, others are looking for real life play partners; and if the conversation is about sex, it's not too difficult for misunderstandings to happen. Once again, it's best to be clear and direct about what you want. You can also ask the other person to clarify him or herself if you're confused.

The best way to learn is to watch public scening in a channel. Usually, two people (or more) pretend to be together in a real life setting. It might be a bedroom, a forest, a dungeon, or at a public gathering. They might agree on what clothes they are wearing in this fantasy, and what objects are handy. The dominant partner (if applicable) may set the rules of the encounter. The rest of the scene is



mixed dialogue and "actions"—the individuals pretending to interact with each other and describing what they are doing in the fantasy. Some people become very good at describing their actions, and the more vivid and creative the participants are in their descriptions, the more realistic and erotic the scene becomes.

It should be noted that in many channels, it's a full time scene, creating a virtual environment where everyone can "physically" interact with each other. Dominants may have their own chairs; there's sometimes a "sub-couch" for the submissives to sit on (although many submissives prefer sitting at the feet of their dominant partners) and there's almost always a wet bar where submissives can fetch drinks for the dominants. There may be a piano and a piano player, a submissive may have a favorite corner, there may be a rack of whips on the wall. To get a sense of the virtual environment, one must watch and pay attention to what the channel regulars describe and use. Generally speaking in these environments, there are no rules for what can and can't be. People make it up as they go along, and as long as it's not *too* ridiculous, no one objects. Sometimes, however, things are a bit more realistic. On BDSMnet, for example, when you enter one of the channels, a bot will send you the following message:

"Hi and welcome to the Chamber.

I'm the bot, not a real person.

For a brief intro to the channel, type !tellme.

To get a list of the rules here, type !rules.

Many channels are specialized for a particular category of erotic picture,

For a description of the room, type !room.

For menus, type !food or !drink, please."

Many enjoy these environments very much; others find them silly. It's simply a matter of personal preference.

Often in such environments, submissives will indicate in some way if they are owned by an IRC dominant. Usually this is done by changing their nick, adding their owner's initials and enclosing them in {special brackets}. This is often a signal that this particular submissive is responsible to his or her owner *only*, and may not engage in scening with any other person. It also sometimes means that the submissive does not want to receive personal messages or attention from other dominants. This is not always the case, as some dominants enjoy seeing their submissives scene with others. However, it is advisable that you approach such individuals with caution. Many in the tightly-knit BDSM IRC communities take their roles very seriously and are wary of potential interlopers.

When an IRC submissive agrees to be owned by an IRC dominant, sometimes the relationship is casual, and sometimes it can be extremely involved. There may be public collaring ceremonies that take place in a channel, and a scene afterward. The private details of the relationship are varied: sometimes the individuals prefer to keep the relationship online, other times it extends into real life, with the dominant taking some sort of control over the daily actions of the submissive. Often there is phone play involved, and sometimes a real-life meeting is arranged. Again, not everyone is interested in this sort of relationship, but enough are interested so that it has become a prevalent trend among BDSM channels on nearly every network.

There's another game dominants and submissives play, but this one usually only happens in private. It has to do with real life instruction, and it can take place either over IRC or on the phone. Sometimes it starts in one and finishes in the other if the partners agree to do so. A submissive will agree to follow the instructions of the dominant, including doing things such as taking off their clothes, putting themselves into bondage, putting themselves into different body positions such as kneeling or lying on the floor, masturbating, or using toys. Sometimes this sort of play is mixed with cyber scening; the dominant intermittently pauses in the fantasy environment to give the submissive a real-life instruction to per-

continued on pg 16

IRC overview

form there at home.

In addition there are many other miscellaneous things that can be done and are done — games, such as D/s Truth or Dare, D/s Strip Poker, or a group discussion of fantasies and experiences. Another very popular activity is the trading of erotic files.

File Trading

Most file trading occurs in special channels set up for the purpose. The most common types of erotic files traded are images, although video clips, sound files, and text stories are also available. Video and sound clips aren't as popular as image files, because the file size is much larger taking much longer to transfer. While an image may take 30 seconds or so to download, an average video clip may take twenty minutes or more. Many channels are specialized for a particular category of erotic picture, such as bondage, spanking, gay or lesbian pictures, group sex, oral sex, anal sex, or almost anything imaginable. As you will undoubtedly see, many of these channels are set up to trade pictures of a very controversial nature. The users within file trading channels often have a collection of a particular kind of file, and wish to increase their collection. They may do so manually, sending files to another trader via DCC and receiving them from the other trader, or they may set up what is known as an FServe — a technology that lets another person automatically download files from your computer. If a picture trader has FServe set up, you may be able to download as many files as you wish, or the trader may impose a **-ratio-**. His computer keeps track of the number of files you have sent

continued from pg 15

to him, and then determines how many files you are allowed to down-

**IRC is text-based
and many people ...
actually prefer it
to AOL.**

load from him. For example, if you send one file to a trader with a ratio of 3:1, you will have three credits and will be able to download three files. If you sent two files, you would have six credits, and so on. Some channels are for no-ratio FServes only, in others, ratio FServes are welcomed.

AOL and IRC

America Online has its own real-time chat forum similar in some ways to IRC. It's a popular choice among those seeking out others online. However, recent rate hikes and service lapses have sent members searching for other alternatives like IRC.

AOL members can try IRC. Your AOL connection provides a TCP/IP socket; AOL acts as your ISP. The only thing you'll need to do is download the appropriate software and learn how to use it.

The first thing an AOL member will notice about IRC is that it's not graphics oriented — there are no windows full of artwork. IRC is text-based and many people find that they actually prefer it over AOL. They find that most of the actual content they are after is text, and they see AOL's graphics and amenities as aesthetic window dressing they're forced to waste time downloading.

IRC provides most of the fea-

tures of AOL, with some exceptions. Some people will miss user profiles; although the /ctcp query command accomplishes many of the same objectives. Your "buddy list" is now your "notify list." (One IRC client for Macintosh, Snak, www.snak.com has actually configured the notify list to resemble an AOL buddy list.) Instant Message windows are comparable to query windows or DCC Chat windows in IRC. AOL Rooms are IRC Channels, and unlike AOL, you can be in as many as you like at the same time.

AOL and IRC handle "lag" differently. The IRC system allows it to exist; although there are ways to measure and control it. AOL freezes until what you've typed is received on the other end. IRC is mainly user-moderated; the users control their own channels and decide what is and isn't acceptable; at AOL staff members and "guides" are the online police squad.

The Internet is a big place and there's much to see and experience. For the first time in history, people with something in common have been able to come together without leaving their homes, to build intricate, close-knit communities of like-minded individuals. The Internet is an invaluable resources for those of us involved in an alternative lifestyle, and the BDSM IRC community urges you to help foster the growth and support of this medium by joining us and adding your strengths to our collective reserve of experience and perspective. Take advantage of what the community has to offer, but don't forget that each person you meet on the Internet is a real person, an individual deserving of the respect you yourself would expect. Good luck in your search! ❖

(Cherlyn is a member of several IRC channels and can be reached by email: cherlyn@earthling.net)

Networks & their Servers

EFnet (port 6667)

eff.org (San Francisco, CA)

irc.cerf.net (San Diego, CA)

irc.blackened.com (Tucson, AZ)

irc.emory.edu (Atlanta, GA)

irc.eskimo.com (Seattle, WA)

irc.mcs.net (Chicago, IL)

irc.neosoft.com (Houston, TX)

irc.pitt.edu (Pittsburgh, PA)

opus.bridge.net (Miami, FL)

chat.brinternet.com (London, UK)

Eurecom8.cica.fr (France)

endo.wide.ad.jp (Japan)

irc.ccii.unipi.it (Italy)

irc.nijenrode.nl (Netherlands)

irc.span.ch (Switzerland)

UnderNet (port 6667)

atlanta.ga.us.undernet.org

AU.Undernet.org (Australia)

austin.tx.us.undernet.org

auckland.nz.undernet.org (N Zealand)

Caen.Fr.EU.UnderNet.org (France)

chicago.il.us.undernet.org

lowell.ma.us.undernet.org

montreal.qu.ca.undernet.org (Montreal)

phoenix.az.us.undernet.org

pittsburgh.pa.us.undernet.org

sandiego.ca.us.undernet.org

washington.dc.us.undernet.org

DALnet (port 7000)

cin.dal.net (Chicago, IL)

davis.DAL.net (Davis, CA)

dragon.DAL.net (Salt Lake City, Utah)

dreamscape.DAL.net (Syracuse, NY)

fastlane.DAL.net (Amarillo, TX)

gas.DAL.net (Toledo, OH)

goldmine (Maryland)

holo.DAL.net (Honolulu, HI)

ky.DAL.net (Lexington, KY)

lib.DAL.net (Bristol, UK)

blond.DAL.net (Germany)

BDSMnet (port 6667)

irc.bondage.com

irc.bondage.com

Command reference

/msg <nick> <Message> - private msg

/query <nick> - opens a "query window"

/join <channel> - joins a channel

/list - lists all available channels

/dcc chat <nick> - DCC Chat session

/dcc send <nick> - send a file to a user

/ctcp <nick> userinfo - get the userinfo

/ctcp <nick> finger - find out an email

address /ctcp <nick> ping - ping a user

/whois <nick> - get user's hostinfo

/quit <Message> - quit IRC, with a message to all the channels you left.

/ignore <nick> - place a user on ignore

/notify <nick> - put a user on your list

/me <action> - perform an action in a channel or in a private chat.

/nick <nick> - change your nick

Commonly Used Abbreviations

a/s/l - age/sex/location? asked about you

afk - away from keyboard

bbl - be back later

bblab - be back in a bit

tyl, tys - talk to you later, soon

lol - laughing out loud

lmao - laughing my ass off

rl, iri - real life, in real life (

Emoticons

:) happy - variations :-) :o) > :^)

:(sad :A sardonic, displeased

:o surprised :D big grin

:) wink :* kiss :p tongue

IRC Jargon

Lag - The amount of time it takes for your typing to reach another user. Being on a different server from the other person may increase lag. If the amount is great, you are said to be "lagged".

Ping - A method of determining lag by bouncing (or pinging) a signal off of the other person's connection and measuring the time it takes to return. A good ping time is two to five seconds.

DCC - Direct client-to-client connection. You can create a secure DCC Chat connection to someone to bypass server lag, or you can use DCC to send someone else a file from your computer.

When you use DCC to do anything, the other person has to "accept" the connection in order to complete it.

Query - The most common form of private messaging, where your messages are sent over the server that connects you to the other user. May be slower than DCC Chat, but easier to initiate. Note: if your conversation is especially sensitive, you may want to use the more secure

DCC Chat, since some network operators (not channel operators) may be able to read your query chat.

CTCP - Client-To-Client Protocol. Used to find out which program another person is using, the local time where they are, their email address (if they want you to have it), or the USERINFO that they set.

Notify List - A list you can maintain to have the network notify you when your friends/playmates sign on to IRC.

Spam - An unsolicited advertisement. While you're on IRC, you'll probably receive unwanted private messages, usually for pay-to-access sex-related websites. Sometimes Spammers infiltrate channels. To help cut down on spam, you can have your client set your mode to "invisible".

Op - A channel operator who maintains the channel, sets the topic, and may kick or ban users from the channel. If you start your own channel, you get to decide who becomes an Op.

Hostinfo (Host) - Another way users on IRC identify each other. Your hostinfo is connection information of the ISP company, and the location that you dial up to.

Netsplit (Split) - An occurrence that happens when one server becomes disconnected from the network, and all users on that server become disconnected as well.

For more information

A Brief History of IRC - <http://www.wclub.com/home/irc/irc2.html>

About DALnet - <http://dalnet.com>

About EFnet - <http://www.efnet.net>

About Ircl - <http://www.xs4all.nl/~ircl/>

About mIRC - <http://www.mirc.com>

#Bondage IRC Link page -

<http://www.cac->

bbs.com/bondage/irc.html

BDSMnet channels -

<http://www.bondage.com/channels/>

BDSMnet

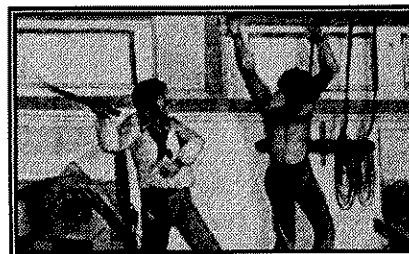
#Dungeon -

<http://home.pacbell.net/webmagic/> ❖

Slavery in the Scene:

an African-American perspective

By Mme. Kitt



Not too long ago there was an interesting on-line discussion on the objective of slave training. One Master was of the opinion that, "The objective of training is to increase the core value of the property ... which remains with the property."

A slave, however, took offense at the use of the term "property" saying (to paraphrase the famous line from "The Elephant Man") that "Property is an object. I am a human being."

The word property can be problematic for many, but for African-Americans in the scene the term "slave" can be even moreso.

Those who know history know that people of all cultures and races have been enslaved at one time. For example: white slave trade within Norse and Ottoman history, the plight of the Spanish gypsies in the 15th century and the Irish in the 16th. And one should not overlook the trade in slaves in Asia up to the 20th century. Indeed, one could argue that the slave trade never truly ended: it is still a fact of life in some African and Southeast Asian countries.

However, the case with African-Americans is unique in that, for them, slavery is part of their *recent* history. Given this, they are left with the dilemma of reconciling that with a BDSM lifestyle. The result is the ratio of African-Americans to Cau-

casian Americans active in the public scene is quite small indeed.

The specific reasons are many. The most obvious reason has less to do with race issues than it does to population ratio. In the US, African-Americans make up approximately 10% the total population; in Canada, England and the Netherlands, that percentage is even smaller. The

**And remember,
Master is a title
that is still used
by the
Ku Klux Klan!**

number of African-Americans in the scene is directly correlated to this.

But racial factors cannot be ignored. To start, there is the socioeconomic element. The public scene tends to be expensive, particularly when you consider clothing, gear and equipment costs. Statistically blacks in general have lower incomes than whites. So there may be, in fact, more African-Americans involved with BDSM, albeit privately: private play does not need a dress code!

Correlated with the issue of finances is that of education, compounded by the race issues sur-

rounding that education. This is not to say that to be involved in the scene one should have a post-secondary education. However, one can make the observation that it may take African-Americans that much extra time to educate themselves on aspects of BDSM. One has to take into account the "white thing" factor: that is, the mindset of, "this is something that only white people do. Therefore it should be of no interest to me." This of course, doesn't apply only to BDSM.

But the concept of slavery, even in a consensual BDSM context, is a weighty one and one cannot ignore the issues regarding race that African-Americans would have with it. In some cases, the issue may seem purely superficial. However, it may be perfectly understandable when one considers the political ramifications of such involvement.

Consider the example of an African-American chained to a post being whipped by a Caucasian. This can evoke bad memories (real or imagined) for participants and audience alike on a psychological level. Such an image brings to mind not only the recent memory of the enslavement of Africans but also the plight of African-Americans in today's society. Too often we hear of incidents of cruelty of this type inflicted by white people on blacks *without* their consent. And remember, Master is a title that is still used by the Ku Klux Klan!

One should also consider that the visual image of an African-American submissive in the scene

The key here is to be able to distinguish between fantasy and reality.

could easily spell trouble for the scene as a whole. For example, a BDSM club gets busted just as an African-American woman is up on a cross getting flogged by a Caucasian male. The ramifications are obvious: the media would have a field day. What do BDSM activities say to the cause of emancipation and human rights?

On the other side, there is the example an African-American man dominating a Caucasian woman. Here one faces the problematic stereotype that was perpetuated by white society since the 16th century: African male-as-sex-savage out to possess white women.

There are other racial stereotypes to consider as well. Take, for example, the African-American Domme. Professional African-American Dommies know that they have a limited market to work with: they cannot meet the beautiful blonde *Venus-in-Furs* model. The African-American Domme feeds into its own stereotypes of African-American-woman-as-animal. This image is exemplified by Iman (in "Exit to Eden") and Grace Jones.

The stereotype of African-American as super-strong-woman also has its drawbacks, particularly for submissives. For them, not only do they have to come to terms with the guilt of perpetuating the negress-as-slave image but also there is the added weight of always having to be in control. Maintenance of that control is stressful enough in one's mundane life, let alone in a BDSM context.

Also stressful are ever-present, and ever tedious, "family values." While this is the bane of society at large, one should note that sexual prudishness has always played a key role in African-American activism. One need only look to the examples

of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.. The adage, "in order to be considered as good as white people, we have to better," is pervasive in African-American culture. Thus superiority must be played out on the moral field as well as on a social and economic one.

But all these issues aside, racism will always play a primary factor in the participation of African-Americans in the Scene and keep the number of African-Americans in the scene to lower levels. It is racism that is the common link supporting all the factors involved.

However, the perception of racism within the scene varies from country to country. Thus, the Canadian perception of race issues is different to that in the US. For one thing Canadian society is not homogeneous: there isn't a "white community" and an "African-American community" *per se*. The black community in Toronto, for example, is made up of West Indians, Africans, Canadians (for several generations) and Americans. The white community is just as diverse. Given this, the manifestations of racism are different here. Canadians are very low-key and tend to be much subtler even when expressing phobic views.

To be fair, however, there is the other extreme: arguably, the majority is hypersensitive to the possibility of being perceived as racist, to the point of being paranoid, at times. Nevertheless for many in white society, issues of race never really occur to them simply because they have not been confronted by it in their everyday lives.

People in the scene cannot help but tend to keep these images in mind, nor can they help but have difficulty perpetuating such images in public. There is guilt that people in the scene must overcome — the guilt in perpetuating an ostensibly racist stereotype: Negro as slave. That this guilt is not felt to the same degree in regard to women (of any race) may have to do with the sexism that is, in many ways, much more pervasive in society as a whole. People are more likely to question racist images than sexist ones.

So what about slavery in BDSM? There are those in the Scene who will not use the term at all: in her book, Christina Abernathy uses the term "slavehood". But to *not* use the term implies denial of slavery's existence in general. More to the point, it implies that slavery is only the domain of Black Africans and ignores all the other cultures that have practiced slavery (and in some instances, *still* do).

The key here is to be able to distinguish between fantasy and reality. Playing at having a harem is fine so long as one can recognize the issues of "Orientalism" in the mundane world. Be that as it may, one should (at the very least) be aware of the racial stereotypes within BDSM and what they can mean to those playing in the scene. ♦

(Madame Kitt is a Black flagellatrix from Toronto, Canada. She has a particular interest in the study of cultural history and how such knowledge can be used in the realm of BDSM. She welcomes your comments.)

Marked Men: Tattooing Down Under

by Michael Masterson

This article appeared originally in Australia's OUT! magazine. Reprinted with permission of the author.

Although not confined to the leather scene, getting tattooed is a popular, yet personal step among Leathermen. Tattooing is a very personal expression, undertaken by men and women, usually after much thought and several decisions.

History

Tattoos and "bad boys" have gone together for many centuries.

So-called primitive tribes in many countries, notably including the Maori of New Zealand, have rit-

ualistic tattooing and skin marking as an integral part of their cultures. Westerners of previous centuries saw them as bad boys, of course, and did their utmost to colonize these tribes

... my (only) tattoo
shows an eagle
on my left bicep
struggling against
a chain which
firmly holds his feet

and stamp out such practices which were perceived to be "heathen".

In "White" society, the marked men were traditionally the sailors — military and commercial, official and renegades (pirates). The images of toughness, maleness and badness were reflected in tattoos. This practice and image extended to prison inmates and bikers in more recent times ... again, seen as bad boys by refined society — and, of course, one of the fundamental roots of the modern leather community was the motorbike clubs with members earning and wearing their leathers.

In Australia, leatherman are seen as something akin to bad boys by many vanilla gay men and lesbians, and positively abhorred by militant feminists. No wonder the tattoo goes so well with our image.

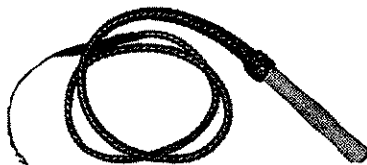
Modern Marked Men

Many men into Leather and BDSM today get one or more tattoo at some stage in their personal ad-

ventures in these erotic fields of adult play and sex. Some men, like me, take many years to pluck up the courage to do

what we have secretly lusted after for decades. It's no surprise then, that often this happens in their 40s or later, when they have finally rebelled against the norms of society dominating all of their lives, and have embarked upon a new lifestyle or changed a major part of their lives through Leather and/or Bondage, Discipline, SM, Master/ slave, etc.. A tattoo chosen under these circumstances is often very symbolic to the wearer.

For instance, my (only) tattoo shows an eagle on my left bicep struggling against a chain which firmly holds his feet and circles my arm to disappear into the skin as it seems. To me this represents my free spirit (the eagle is the king of birds, the most majestic, the most powerful, the biggest of the winged creatures). However, in today's society no one is really free, and the chain represents the anchors of society which surround us all and drag us down towards a lowest common denominator of normality and respectability. Thus, my eagle can never escape as he is chained to my skin, just as I can never really escape the chains of the society in which I live and work.



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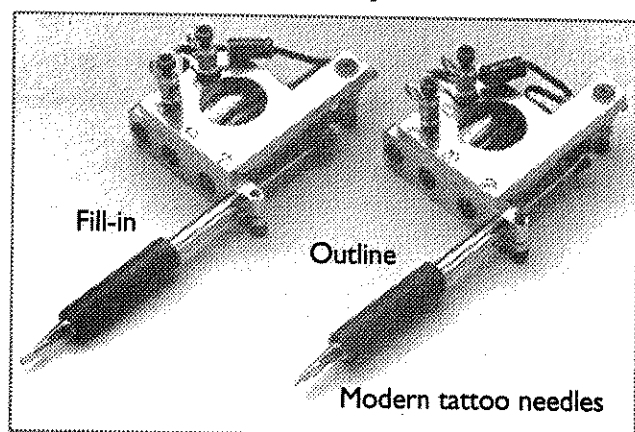
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My mate, Jon, is basically a bottom, and he enjoys bondage. His tattoo is on his right bicep, and is a Celtic design which is basically an endless rope which coils in and out upon itself.

Our tattoos illustrate two of many types of design which are popular. Others including dragons and other amazing demonic creatures from the mythical past, landscapes including animals or humans, and almost any other wild image you can think of are likely to be found upon



someone's skin somewhere. Straight men frequently include women in their designs, but other than the traditional "Mother" it is rare to see the female form flourishing on a gay man's flesh.

Interesting is the trend over the past 6-8 years for young gay (Aussie) men (and women) to acquire tattoos at an early age. It's a gesture of rebellion and independence, of course, but their frequency is why one can no longer suspect a man is into Leather just because he sports a tattoo.

What is a tattoo?

Simply put, it is the impregnation of the lower layers of your skin with special ink to form a pattern or design which is more or less permanent. Tattoos can be black outline and shading, or coloured.

A tattoo is done using a machine which has several needles which

Your choice of a reputable tattoo artist ... is the most important decision in the process.

are dipped in the ink and run across the surface of your skin.

Outlines are done first, and the needles for these are usually finer and fewer. If you find tattooing painful, this part of the process is usually most painful. Coloring in or shading uses a larger number of needles in the head of the tattoo gun to spread the ink more broadly. It is more likely to be painful on the soft, fleshy, unused part of the skin (such as under your arm) compared with tougher, exposed parts such as the bicep and shoulder muscles.

Choosing a tattoo

What you want to wear on your skin as an expression and display of personal artwork for the rest of your life is a very serious and personal decision. While tattoos can be removed by laser surgery these days, it is a very expensive procedure and I'm not sure that it is totally successful in removing all traces, though it is certainly far more effective than primitive removal techniques of the past. So, when you decide to get a tattoo it should be a sound decision made after considerable thought, and the choice of design should be something you really want to wear with pride for the rest of your life.

If it's only a passing fad for you, or to get some idea of what it will look like and what reaction you will draw from your friends and family, buy a temporary tattoo from

a party shop or adult shop. They are inexpensive, work as transfers, and can easily be removed when required. In fact, they seldom last more than a day or three, so you might want to get a few temporary tats to really test the whole thing out. It took me 20 years to decide to have a tatt and to choose a design. You may think that's the most critical choice. It's not!

Choosing an artist

Your choice of a reputable tattoo artist to implant this permanent design under your skin is the most important decision in the process. Chose the wrong one and you can suffer infection of a minor or major nature, a badly-done design, or unnecessary pain and expense (by having to have it covered up or re-done elsewhere). Simple advice is: avoid home services and backyarders; select a professional tattoo artist who practices from licensed premises.

A trained, professional tattooist understands the potential for blood-borne viruses and bacteria to be passed from client to client, or even from an operator to a client, if equipment is not sterile and the surroundings not hygienic. Most tattooists use an autoclave (a steam sterilizer) to sterilize the equipment to be used in tattooing, and they use disposable tattoo needles to minimize the possibility of disease transfer.

So, look around before you decide on a tattoo artist. Ask some people you know who are tattooed and whom you respect where they got theirs done and whether they recommend the artist and why. Feel

continued on pg 22

Marked Men

continued from pg 21

free to wander into several tattoo shops to check them out. Look around for signs of cleanliness or dirtiness: does the operator use an autoclave, or does he put aside the idea as "needless expense." These days a bright, attractive, clean environment is the first sign that the artist deserves your custom.

Talk to the tattooist and tell him it's your first time. Prepare and ask him questions about tattooing generally and his work in particular: does he sterilize the equipment, and how? Does he use new needles for each client? Is he a member of a professional association? Does he have a license from a health authority?

If he is helpful, enthusiastic (but not pushy) and open in talking to you about his work, and if he has a large range of designs (called flash-es) on his walls for you to look at, they are other good signs. He may also have photographs showing examples of his artwork. You will feel comfortable with the right artist. It's a bit like choosing your doctor in a new town.

Other decisions

Be aware that some tattooists work only from their own existing designs, others will take and modify a drawing or photo you supply, while others again are pleased to develop original designs just for you (the latter will cost more, of course). So, part of your decision is whether you want something typical, something modified or something original. Visit a number of tattoo shops until you find the person who will do what you want.

Where to place your tattoo(s) is another part of the decision process. Arms and biceps are still the most

popular places on the body. If you work in a conservative organization or come from a repressive family, consider having it high up so you can keep it covered even if you wear a short-sleeved shirt to work. The back and the backside are other popular choices, but there aren't many parts of the body I haven't seen sporting a tattoo.

Size is another consideration. Some men start small with a spider or the like - my brother got a red-

**Don't get drunk
or stoned when you go
for your tatt. A good
operator will refuse
to tattoo you**

back spider. My own tattoo was a major personal decision and signified a lifestyle change, and I was proud to get a medium-size, wedge-tailed eagle on my arm with a bit of chain showing below my sleeve.

Some tattooists will not work on genital areas. Most won't do them on hands, heads and some other parts exposed of the body — but you'll still see some men wearing them there and they are not self-made. Finally, some tattooists see clients by appointment, while others have you join the queue and wait your turn. Decide your preference.

Getting a tattoo

Generally if you are over 18 years of age (the age of consent may differ in some countries or States), it is up to you to decide to get a tattoo. Select a design, operator and position on your body to get the tattoo. Shop around for a good price. But stick to professional shops and



avoid unlicensed back yard and home operators.

My tattoo artist has a shop in a country town 1.5 hours from my home. He is meticulously clean, takes pride in and exhibits photos of his work, satisfies all the guidelines in this article, takes appointments (I hate waiting in queues), did modified designs for me and my mate — and charged about 2/3 of what we would have paid in my City. I made a day adventure of it, riding there in leather on my motorcycle with my mate as pillion. I treated the pain part of it as a private SM mind trip (my operator is straight - but you may find a gay tattooist who can incorporate the tattooing session into a scene with your Master).

Go along and watch one or more tattoos being done (with the operator's and clients' permission) as part of your decision process. Observe if: the operator and/or establishment is a member of the Professional Tattooists Association (which sets and controls standards of practice for its members); the establishment is displaying registration or a license from the appropriate State or Local Government Health authority; the operator appears clean — clothing and personal habits; new gloves are worn for each client; the tattooing equipment is presented to clients in a sterile bag or container before use and opened in front of the client; the operator uses small,



disposable ink containers and isn't dipping into one big container; the operator is talking to the client about the process and looking for and dealing with any signs of anxiety or stress; your questions are being answered and you feel comfortable with the answers and the operator.

If you aren't happy with what you see and hear, go elsewhere.

Don't get drunk or stoned when you go for your tatt. A good operator will refuse to tattoo you in such a condition, and it is illegal for him to work on you in that state.

Likewise, make sure your operator isn't drunk or stoned! Having said this, tattooing is painful for most men, and to help relax there's nothing wrong with having one or two beers or bourbons before you go.

Caring for your tattoo

The tattooing process pierces your skin and creates a mass of tiny wounds. To minimize the risk of infection and maximize the long-term appearance of your tattoo, follow these procedures:

Gently massage the tattoo with an antiseptic cream and bandage immediately after completion. It may feel sore. After one hour remove the bandage. Wear a loose, long-sleeved shirt over it for a day or two.

Wash the tattoo gently with warm, soapy water using a dabbing action, once or twice a day. Pat the tattoo dry with a soft towel - *never* rub it.

Never pick or scratch the tatt.

Some flaking or scabbing is quite normal. Don't be alarmed unless it becomes excessive or starts looking angry and feeling sore again.

Apply the antiseptic cream the tattooist gives you, as directed.

Avoid contacting it with water in the shower or bath (wrap it with

cling wrap and keep it out of the water), and don't go swimming until it heals.

Keep your tattoo out of direct sunlight, as it may burn. In fact, sunlight will cause a healed tattoo to fade over a period of time, if you expose it too frequently.

Contact your tattoo studio immediately if you have any problems.

Conclusion

A tattoo is a personal marking on your body which should be selected with care and worn with pride as part of your self-expression. Approach tattooing sensibly, and enjoy the effects for the rest of your life. ♦

(The Marked Men organization puts out a periodic newsletter which you can subscribe to. And Geoff and Joe, the organizers, are extremely friendly, hospitable, supportive leathermen who are great to have a yarn with about your tattoo over a beer. Write for information and a sample newsletter to: Marked Men, P.O. Box 252, Petersham, NSW 2049, Australia.)

(Michael Masterson lives in Melbourne, is the proprietor of Eagle Leather and active in the local BDSM /leather communities. Find him on the web at www.eagleleather.com.)

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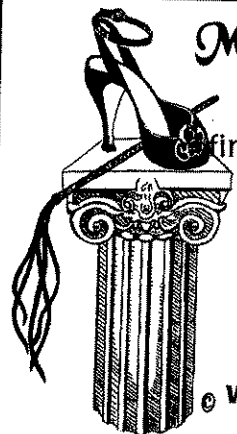
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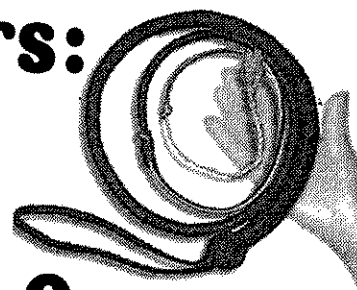
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Poppers:

How to Tie One On



by Mitch Kessler

It's the little bit of string at the end of the whip that makes all the noise. It is also the part that takes the most punishment, especially in "scene" whip work.

The original Signal Whip design never intended for its popper to make contact with anything ... or for the whip itself to be used for a very long time. (One race of the Iditerod was supposed to be the limit.) As a result, the method of braiding the popper directly into the whip was entirely adequate.

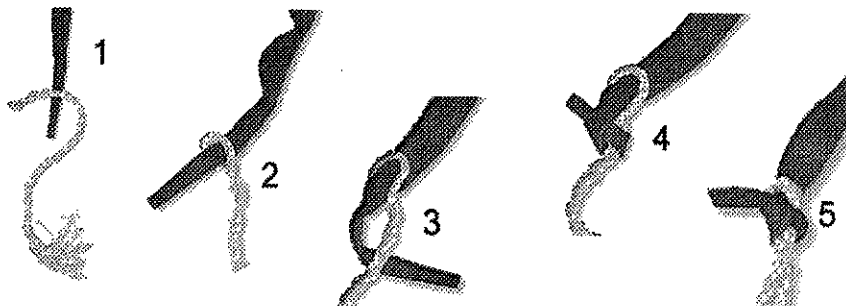
However, when BDSM scene players actually started hitting targets: newspapers, plush toys and plastic cups in practice, light switches and paper targets in competition, and soft flesh in play — replacing damaged or contaminated poppers became of greater concern.

Braiding-in a popper is *not* a do-it-yourself project. This work usually is done for \$15 - \$25 by the whip's own manufacturer ... and it's a bargain at the price. It is also an inconvenience, and entails losing use of the whip for at least a couple of weeks.

The "fall," a short piece of plain leather between the popper and the braided thong, makes popper replacement simple. Whips with falls are Snake-, Stock-, or Bull-whips. There are two styles of popper attachment to the fall: the "Texan," which is considered longer lasting and easier to tie, and the "Australian," which is generally found on costlier whips and is promoted as being "more accurate." In the three to four foot length Signal Whip range, it is difficult to prove a difference in actual performance.

For these reasons, I prefer, and use, whips with falls rather than with the popper braided in.

Australian Style

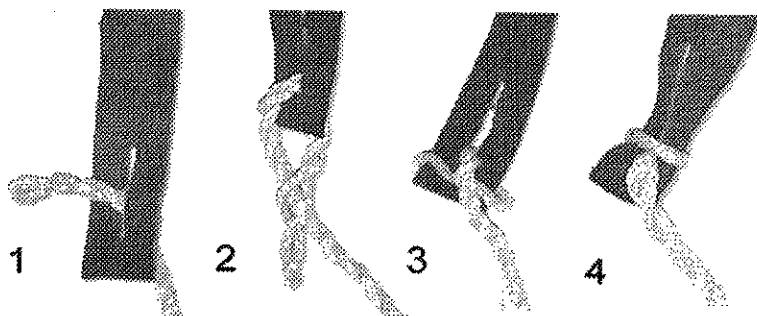


Instructions:

- 1) The Australian fall is a tapered leather thong.
- 2) Thread tip of fall through "eye" of popper.
- 3) Lead tip of fall *behind* popper
- 4) Bring tip of fall around and over popper, then through the new loop in the fall
- 5) Pull first the popper, then the tip of the fall to tighten.

The knot so formed is a **Sheet Bend**, anatomically similar to the **Bowline** knot. You can trim excess fall leather flush with the knot to reduce wind resistance.

Texan Style



Instructions:

- 1) Thread the popper through the slit in the end of the fall.
- 2) Thread the popper through itself.
- 3) Pull the "eye" of the popper over both the end of the fall, and over itself.
- 4) Pull on popper to tighten,

Done correctly the popper pulls the two sides of the fall together, for greater strength. Done incorrectly, the popper forms a "Lark's Head Knot" which pulls on the end of the slit in the fall at its weakest point.

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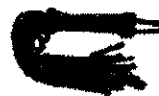
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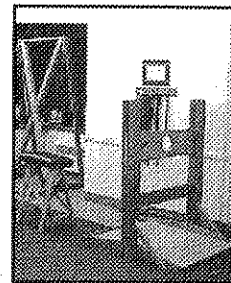
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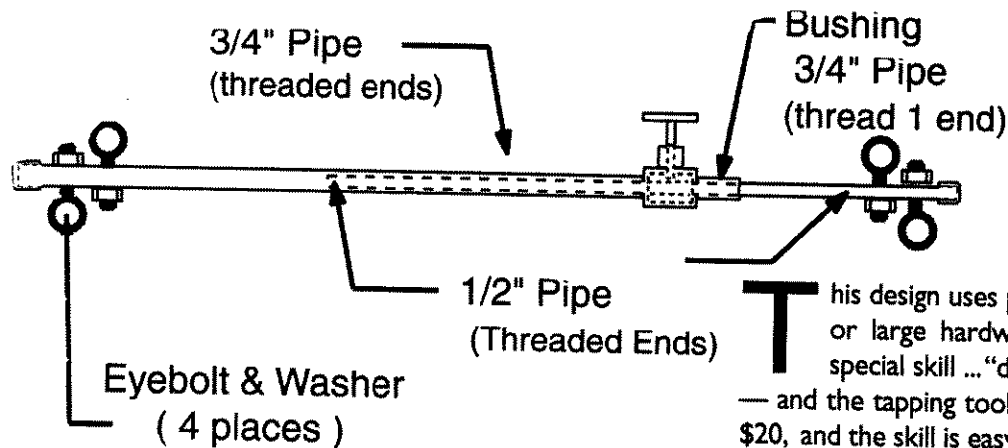


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The Ultimate Spreader Bar

By Mitch Kessler



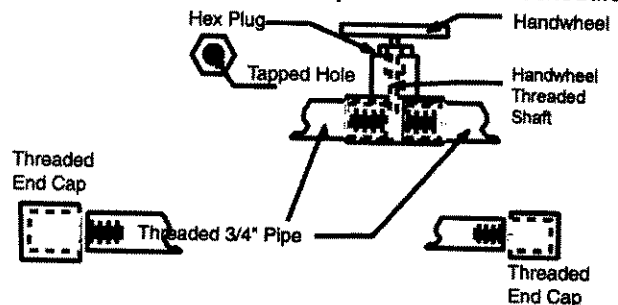
This design uses pipe from a plumbing supply or large hardware store. It calls for one special skill ... "drilling and tapping a thread" — and the tapping tools. The tools will cost about \$20, and the skill is easy to master. With care, most people will succeed on the first try.

Spreeder Bars are used more often to hold legs or arms spread to a specific distance than they are for actual overhead suspension. See #32 for rigging options to distribute the weight load evenly. That issue also contains information for making a spreader bar from a closet rod, vinyl tubing or plain wood.

Overview:

This spreader is adjustable to very fine settings. It is heavy-duty and also rather heavy. It is made of "schedule 40" galvanized steel plumbing pipe which can be purchased in standard lengths with ends already threaded. The galvanizing makes painting unnecessary, except as decoration. If you do decide to paint, use a primer and pre-primer formulated for use on galvanized steel made by The RustOleum Co.

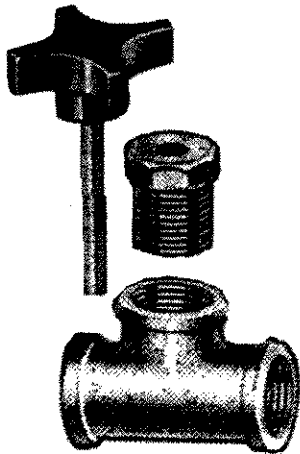
There are two lengths of pipe with fitted with eye-bolts and end caps. One length is 3/4" i.d. pipe, screwed into a "T-Fitting." A "Handwheel" with a threaded shaft is screwed into a plug in the T-Fitting. A four to six inch long piece of 3/4" pipe is screwed into the remaining hole in the T-fitting as a "bushing" which holds the length of 1/2" i.d pipe in alignment. When the handwheel is tightened, the threaded stud presses into the smaller pipe, locking it in place.



The design can be simplified by substituting a simple threaded "Coupling" with a threaded hole tapped into it rather than the T-Fitting and plug assembly. This makes a less clunky-looking assembly. However, with only the thickness of the coupling to hold the stud, the assembly is not as rigid, and is more subject to losing the handwheel and stripping the stud hole threads.

Pipe sizes do not refer to either the inside or outside diameters. Also called "IPS" and "nominal pipe size" this dimension has an obscure history ... no doubt passed on from Master Plumber to Apprentice from the days when pipes were still made of copper and lead.

... and a Lesson in Pipefitting



This is a table of pipe sizes with their actual dimensions. Any two consecutive sizes will fit one-within-the-other.

$3/8" = 3/4"$ od

$1/2" = 7/8"$ od

$3/4" = 1"$ od.

The Handwheel is the most variable design feature and can be the most expensive component. Plastic-handled wheels cost only a few dollars. A cast-metal item might cost \$20 or \$30. The choice is yours. The Wheel's stud needs to be long enough to reach the inner pipe, and may be 1/4-20 5/16-18 or 3/8-16 in size. The first figure is the nominal dimension of the hole, the second is the "pitch" of the thread.

Tapping the Hole

When you tap the hole, first drill a hole of proper diameter for the stud's thread. Usually I just ask the clerk for "a drill for such-and-such a tap." There's usually a table of drill-tap pairs behind the counter somewhere.

Otherwise, these are the approximate sizes:

1/4-20 uses a $15/64"$ dia drill

5/16-18 uses a $17/64"$ dia drill

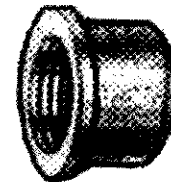
3/8-16 uses a $5/16"$ dia drill

With luck, your plumbing supply or hardware store will be able to drill and tap the necessary hole for you. If you need an excuse for the clerk ... you are building an adjustable photographic light stand.

The easy way to do this job is to drill the hole in a drill press, then clamp the fitting in a vise and tap the hole with a tap clamped in a tap-holder. You can also get the job done sitting on the floor, using a power hand drill.

For those who have never drilled into a steel pipe before, here are a few pointers: You need to mark the spots at which you intend to drill. Use a large nail or a center punch. The idea is to make a little "dimple" or indentation that holds the point of the drill-bit. You will also want to make a pilot hole 1/2 the diameter of the final hole, a second hole with a bit 3/4 the final diameter, and use a bit of lubricating oil on each drill.

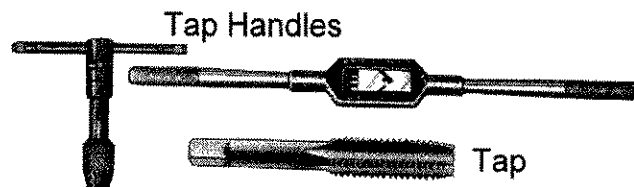
At the same time you can screw the threaded end-caps onto the outside ends of the two long, nesting pipe lengths. This shows you the obvious location for the 4 eye-bolt set, 2 at each pipe end



Tapping a hole is simple, requiring just a bit of care. The tap tool is screwed into the hole, cutting its own thread as it goes. It is important to hold the tool straight and steady, and to "back off" a 1/4 turn, every full turn or so ... to allow the chips to clear the cutting edges. A little light lubricating oil on the tap is a good idea too.

With the hole tapped, the plug can be inserted into the T-fitting and wrenched tight. The long 3/4" pipe is screwed into one opening, the short 3/4" bushing is screwed into the other.

All that remains is to slide the smaller tube inside the larger, install the eyebolts and attach a good friend in the usual manner — using leather cuffs and snaphooks. ♦



The Sound of Two Hands Clapping

One person's odyssey from bottom to Top and ...

←————→ by **Cecilia Tan**

Each person I know who plays at BDSM roles, or who lives them, has a slightly different definition of the words slave, service, and submission. Recently, this has been the source of some drama in the lives of people dear to me, and has made me question my own definitions and seek to firm them up in my own mind. My definitions, I realize, come to me as a result of my experience and my fantasies, a combination of what is (or was) and what I wish could be. Sometimes the two are quite different.

Service and Ownership

Let's start with that word slave. There's a big difference, I think, between a slave and a servant. Both slaves and servants can serve, but a slave is "owned." A servant is not necessarily owned. Of course, what does owned mean when we are speaking of non-legal agreements between partners? Most of the people I know who have long-term Master/slave relationships speak of the ownership bond as a mutual feeling that one partner is wholly possessed by the other in a spiritual and emotional sense. The Top feels the bond most when mastering, the bottom when submitting, but the bond is there all the time ... in and out of scene.

The First Time

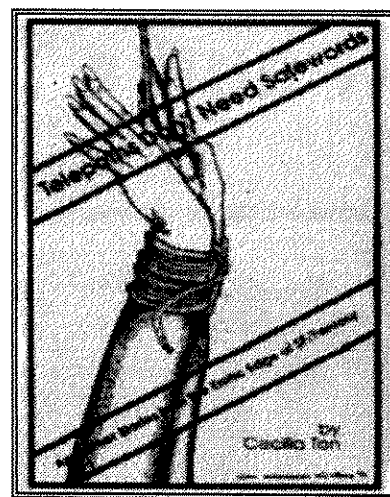
I remember the first time I felt this feeling. I was pinned to the floor of a threadbare apartment in a bad neighborhood of Boston. I'd gone home with a cute little punk of a boy, and after many hours of just

talking and getting to know one another, he reached over and started to kiss my neck.

We fell back onto the floor (he didn't really own much furniture) and I found I couldn't sit up because I was pinned. This went on for quite some time — so long that I lost track of time, with me occasionally trying to struggle, until eventually I gave in to the intense pleasure of his tongue on my neck. It was as if the proverbial lightbulb went on in my head: blink! This is it! I had been fantasizing about SM, about slavery, about torture (and pirates and Cat-woman and interrogation scenes and so on) for years. And suddenly there it was, this unmistakable feeling that for those moments, I was completely his. It was bliss!

**... our relationship
was recreational
rather than romantic.
I was a slave to my punk
with no furniture, only
when we chose
to put on those roles.**

We stopped after a while — I don't remember clearly what we said, other than good night. I went home. We hadn't had sex, we hadn't used any bondage or toys, he hadn't slapped me or even said a single word. The next day I wrote him a letter (I'd memorized his address) describing the feelings I'd had during the necking (so that's what that word really means!) and thanking



him, without trying to be too obvious that I wanted more. A few days later he came by my office, we went to eat lunch, and while we were out he pushed me up against a building, and slapped a wrist cuff on me, and invited me over. A few days after that I had my first serious intense BDSM scene, and garnered bruises on my butt that lasted for months.

I felt overcome when we were in scene, and his ability to overcome me physically created the feeling that I was possessed by him at those times.

But the ownership feeling with him only lasted while we were in scene. This didn't seem to be a bad thing, and we were both happy with what we got out of it. I think part of it was my conception of myself as an uppity bottom, a Smart Ass Masochist, who could be subdued in the course of a scene, but who would bounce back to rebellion soon after the scene was over. I think he liked it that way. It was part of the game and our relationship was recreational rather than romantic. If I was a slave to my punk with no furniture, it was only in those moments when we chose to put on those roles.

Something more

Later I met another Top who, in the course of one scene at a play

**... before I had any of these real world experiences,
I had fantasized about this kind of pair-bond
before I even knew I craved it myself.**

party (where we hadn't even planned to play) began to transform me from a Smart Ass into something else. Part of this was because he was able not only to overcome me physically, but mentally. Suddenly I knew what it was not to be bound and forced to do something, but to *choose* to do it and bend my will to his. From this sprang the urge to serve, and with it something else I hadn't expected: loyalty. These were feelings that lasted beyond the end of a scene, feelings I carried with me in my heart when we were apart. We did not see each other often, and each had other primary relationships, so if I was a slave, it was in this lasting sense that even though we were apart, I was still his. If he asked me to do something, I would do it without being forced. I had never in a million years expected to go from being a rebellious masochist who needed to be overcome to being a loyal submissive.

The word slave had taken on a new dimension for me.

That relationship, which was somewhat tenuous with the distance between us and the other priorities in each of our lives, eventually ended. But in the meantime a third Master/slave relationship had come into being in my life, one which I, again, never in a million years expected.

Love and Ownership

I fell in love with my current partner of seven years when we were both bottoms. Within the first few times we played together, I emerged as the Dom and the bond of ownership between the two of us blossomed. I managed to create in him the same urge to serve and the same

deep-seated loyalty for me that I had had for my Master. And I discovered the other side of the leash, the feeling of power and of responsibility I felt for him. I felt I was his protector — that with ownership came stewardship.

Anyone who had read my story "Telepaths Don't Need Safewords" in 1991, which was before I had any of these real world experiences, probably know I had fantasized about this kind of pair-bond before I even knew I craved it myself. And yet I find fantasy becoming reality in my life. How? Through mutual con-

sent between my partner and me. There is balance between Master and slave, between Top and bottom, there are promises made by both sides. The bottom's promise of loyalty is matched with the promise of stewardship.

Put more graphically: although the bottom hands the Top the power to destroy him or her, the Top promises *not* to wield that power.

This is in many ways akin to the balance of etiquette that binds many Asian societies where master/student relationships exist. In Korea, you never fill your own tea cup. You are expected to be vigilant and fill those of others around you when they are empty. Likewise, your table-mates are supposed to notice when

continued on pg 30



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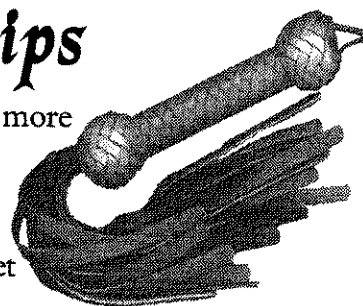
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Two Hands Clapping

continued from pg 29

yours is dry and fill it. (This is true of stronger drinks than tea, as well.) In the martial arts, the rules for masters or instructors stress that the master should never ask his or her students for favors or to do work around the school. And yet the proverbial relationship has the student chopping wood and carrying water (or in the modern day, painting the walls, cleaning the floor). How? The master should never ask, but he should never have to. It is the student's responsibility to offer to do these things without being asked.

In the West, this dynamic does not hold up very well. And in relationships, each partner sitting silently by while waiting for the other partner to guess at and fulfill his or her partner's erotic and emotional needs is what we call "dysfunction." Instead we need open discussion and negotiation, even among long term partners.

Defining terms

So, I may be ready to try a stab at some definitions. A slave is one who is owned, spiritually and emotionally. But what is the difference between service and submission? Service can be an act of submission but the two are not the same thing.

Submission has all to do with the will. Submission is letting go of your own in order to follow the will of the Top. There is room in submission for some resistance, in the case of a scene where, say, the Top wants the bottom to submit to a caning, and the bottom may have to be coaxed, or overcome, or bound, in order to do it. But the bottom *does* submit. When we play at roles that end when we walk out of the dungeon, we still submit, but our submission is not always long-lasting. The need to be overcome is a part of submission, and was what I felt with my punk boy, who owned me only in those moments when I wore his bonds. The more complex urges I felt with my next Top though, the loyalty and urge to serve, came from another dimension of submission and introduced me to the quandary that sometimes service and submission can be at odds to one another.

Let me explain. At this point, I began to make a quality distinction between submission that was "forced" by my being overcome and submission that was given of my own free will. I began to think that my obedience, my giving myself without resistance, was "better" than

being overcome. Years later, I am coming to realize this was not inherently better but was definitely different. But is the relative value of these types of submission mutually determined between the two partners involved? I don't think it usually is. I think usually the Top sets the parameters of what he or she finds acceptable, and of what he or she approves. What one Top desires and values, another may not.

In my view I had come to value the subsuming of the bottom's will to the Top's wishes above other types of submission, and this continues to be the dynamic of my seven year mastery of my partner. I expect him to master himself, to have the self-discipline, to follow my instructions and serve my wishes, even when he feels rebellious or questions my authority.

Sometimes, he strays, and then it becomes my duty, as part of my stewardship, to steer him back to me and to re-establish my mastery of him.

I don't know if either of us would be able to do this without the additional dimensions of love and commitment we feel for each other as primary partners, but we hold it up as an ideal.

Ideals and Reality

There is a difference between ideals and reality. Part of the bliss I feel in this relationship is because we approach the ideal much of the time, and, perhaps more important, because when we aren't perfect, I feel we are both striving toward the same goal. This ideal satisfies the needs and desires of us both.

I've only recently come to realize that this ideal won't work for all D/s relationships, including ones I may have outside this one. I have begun exploring bottom-space again for myself, and have found myself caught between needing very much to be rebellious and be overcome and feeling like a hypocrite for even considering acting up or being disobedient. I am coming to realize that the romantic ideal on which I have built my primary relationship may not in fact serve my desires well in other contexts.

And I find myself unable to think badly of bottoms who also need "help" to bring themselves to submit, who need to feel a firm hand, or who may lack the self-discipline necessary to bend themselves to the Top's will without being beaten or overcome. In terms of my own journey through submission, I still think of that state as less evolved than a self-disciplined state, but I no longer see it as less worthy or less important. In my own relationships, I think, I will always try to evolve them toward that ideal, but I realize that it takes work and input on the part of both partners to achieve.



I have also come to see more sharply the difference between submission and service in another way. When I felt the urge to serve my former Master, I often took my own initiative in devising things I could do for him which he did not ask. How could this be considered submitting to his will, when it was my own will that came up with these things? In a strict sense, this was service, but it was not submission. Some tops, I now know, get incensed, angry, or disappointed if their submissives try to "surprise" them. They see it as disrespect for the submissive to act on their own, beyond their specific wishes. I can see that point of view, and understand it, but for me it would not work in a long term relationship. I want, and need, to know that my submissive and my lover can think independently. I accept his acts of independent thought to surprise or pleasure me as gifts of his devotion.

It has been a long time since I have come home to find dinner made and him in collar, kneeling and hoping for me to approve. I reserve the right to disapprove of his initiative, to be angry at him for being the one to choose the time and place, but really, his chances of pleasing me rather than displeasing me by doing so are good. Though other Tops might view such behavior as willful, I may lavishly reward this type of service because it stirs in me feelings of ownership. (If, on the other hand, my slave ignored orders that were given in order to pursue some service activity of his own devising, I would consider punishing him by banishment from my presence, an act which will take the wind out of his proverbial sails and upset him deeply.)

Each Top must determine for themselves what amount of service they demand, and what amount of submission, and where these two elements interact. And each bottom must determine for themselves what type of mastery they crave.

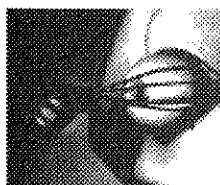
I think another ideal I hold in my head is that although each partner begins with these possibly very separate ideas, the alchemy that brings two partners together has the ability to shape them both, to create a new ideal that works for both. Or sometimes we need to work hard to find a paradigm that accommodates the needs and desires of both. Sometimes relationships do not work out, sometimes partners are not compatible. Sometimes a Top really wants a Houseboy, and the Bottom wants to be a Pet In a Gilded Cage. But sometimes magic can happen, and that is one ideal I will not give up. ♦

(Cecilia Tan is an author and publisher active in NLA: New England and the Boston scene. She can be reached on the web at: circletpress.com)

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by Michael Rosen

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BOOK REVIEW

by Tony DeBlase

Juice, Electricity for Pleasure and Pain

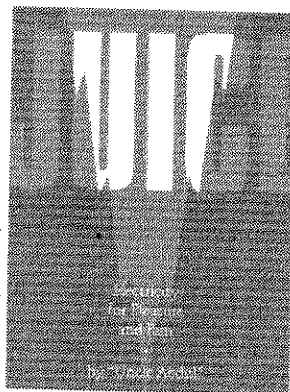
by "Uncle Abdul".

(Greenery Press, 1998)

170 pages

Juice is an unusual book in many ways. Unlike most treatises on electrical SM, including much I have written and many lectures/workshops I have given, the author's intent is not to explain to you how to do, and not do, electrical scenes. His intent is to make you *understand* them.

Electricity is very different from any other SM "medium" As a top, when I apply a flogger or a truncheon, I can see and feel all the elements. Before the blow I can feel the weight and surface nature of my implement. I can feel the smoothness of the area to be struck; estimate its sensitivity. My brain can compute exactly how hard I want to hit so all of these elements can go together to deliver a blow with exactly the intensity I want. When I bind a limb, I select the implements I



want, I decide how tightly I want the limb enclosed, and what vectors I will use to restrain it to prevent what types of movement. Even in testicle torture I can see and feel just how much the organs are being distorted and judge how much pressure I am applying as I am doing it.

But with electricity, except for the violet wand, I do not have access to any of this feedback from the equipment. Oh, I may know where a knob is set or what a flashing light is telling me, but I can neither see nor feel the electricity as it is applied to my bottom. My *only* guide to what the bottom is experiencing is the physical reaction and/or verbalization. Thus it is much more important that you understand what is happening in an electrical scene than that you understand the physics involved in a blow from a truncheon, or the pressure of a nipple clamp.

Juice is the only book I have seen with the Glossary at the beginning. "Uncle Abdul" has placed it right behind the Table of Contents (though for some reason it is not listed *in* the table of contents!). The author makes it very clear that he considers, "Electrical play is edge play." He also makes it clear that electrical play should not be indulged in until the players are firmly grounded in other SM techniques and media.

I think that both of these points are true, but there are exceptions. I can think of a lot of common practices I would consider much edgier than using a PES (Paradise Electro Stimulation) pleasure box connected to a double pole cockring on your own genitals to dial up an orgasm. I wouldn't even consider this SM. It becomes slightly edgier if someone else has control of the box, edgier still if you are restrained while it is happening, edgier yet if one of the electrodes goes up the ass or into the urethra, edgier still if you are using a Relaxacisor instead of the pleasure box, even edgier if the power source is a hand crank generator, and well *over* the edge if it is a model train transformer.

It is giving you the information you need to understand these kinds of differences that is Uncle Abdul's goal and I think he is quite successful in achieving it. The writing is good and clear and leavened with just the right touch of humor. The illustrations are simple and, for the most part, easy to follow and precisely positioned beside the appropriate text.

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That is *not* to say the book is perfect. The listing of power sources is excellent ... (but) there are two omissions, one minor and one major.

The balance of the book is divided into four sections. The first is Physics, which explains electricity, the volts, amps and ohms of it. Uncle manages to do this fairly clearly and concisely, and without going off on esoteric tangents that so many of those who really do understand this stuff are prone to do. Part two is Physiology: how skin, muscles and nerves work, and most importantly, how the electricity affects them.

Part three: Psychology, has four chapters, but only the first, "Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid" is strictly about the psychology of electrical play. Chapter 14 is an excellent detailed treatment of each of the types of electrical sources. "Putting It All Together" does just that, and "Some Typical Play Scenarios" gives good examples.

Part four: Review: is the final exam. The author proposes seven scenarios and poses a few questions about how you would react in the situation. Then, on the next page, he gives "suggested answers to the questions." This is an interesting, and I think effective, technique for self-testing.

All in all I think that *Juice* is a quite valuable book that should be read by anyone who is interested in electrical play. I have been playing with, and writing about, electricity for nearly 20 years. (My article, "The Shocking Art of Electrical Torment," in *DungeonMaster* #8, January 1981, is, I believe, the first how-to article published anywhere on the subject.) And I can say that I learned some things from *Juice* that I did not know previously, and that I better understand some things than I had before.

That is *not* to say the book is perfect. The listing of power sources is excellent, covering everything from the "Carpet Shuffle Zap" to Tazers and Diathermy Machines. But there are two omissions, one minor and one major. On the minor side, there is no distinction between sizes of magnetos or hand crank generators. Little "pepper pots" from military field telephones are different from the larger units that used to be in rural wall telephones, which are different from those that provided the spark to start a Model T Ford, or the huge ones mounted with bicycle pedals that could provide power for a military

camp. While the latter two are rather rare, I've seen more of them than I have Diathermy Machines.

The other omission is considerably more important. There is no mention of the PES pleasure box, or the similar unit manufactured by Folsom Electric, anywhere in the book. Yet these are the electrical toys advertised in every SM publication, including *The Guardian*, and available in all major shops. You do not have to scout yard sales, flea markets, junque shops etc. to find them; nor to you need a prescription. They are the easiest electrical toy for anyone interested to obtain. Why were they not discussed?

I would also have liked to see more discussion of the various kinds of electrodes used to convey the electricity from the source to the body. Very little mention was made of this anywhere in the book and the nature of the contact of electricity to skin can greatly vary the feel of the same unit's power settings on the same part of the same bottom. But perhaps we will get this in *Juice II*. ❖

(Tony DeBlase, aka Fledermaus, was the founding Publisher of both DungeonMaster and The Sandm-utopia Guardian. He currently lives on the west coast where he stays interested in the BDSM communities.)

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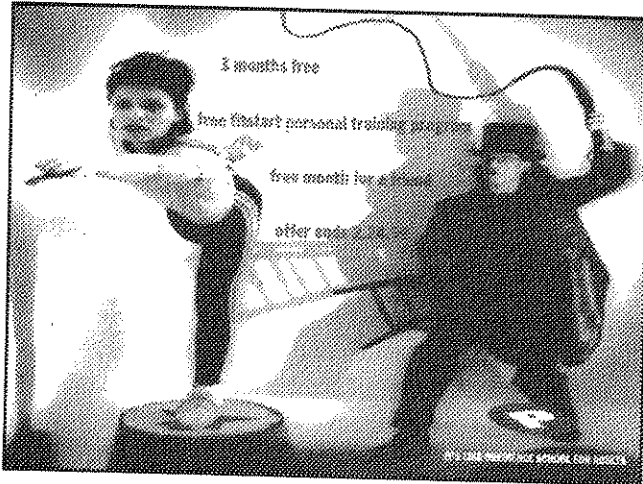
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Enema of the People

The newest alternative health remedy sweeping Russia, according to Leonardo Arte in his book *CaCas* ("COLORS" magazine, 1998) is the so-called **Kremlin Tablet**, and electronic enema once favored by Soviet president Leonid Brezhnev for its expurgative powers. Equipped with two electrodes, a micro-processor, and a power supply, the metal pill reportedly settles in the digestive tract and emits electrical impulses designed to cause the digestive muscles to contract. The result: "cleaner, healthier insides." And it's reusable! ♦

Intrepid reader **John S.** found this one. Nice work.



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Attn: Chicago readers. This man needs help!

The mother of a Chicago high school student filed a lawsuit against the school board and shop teacher **Philip Rush**, who had admitted shocking disruptive students by hooking them up to a spark plug and a current-producing crank, sometimes, according to the lawsuit, for as long as 30 seconds. According to the school superintendent, Rush said the disciplinary stunt was a "teaching tool" for kids to see how electricity worked." ♦

BDSM Web authors who love **control** love Dreamweaver2.

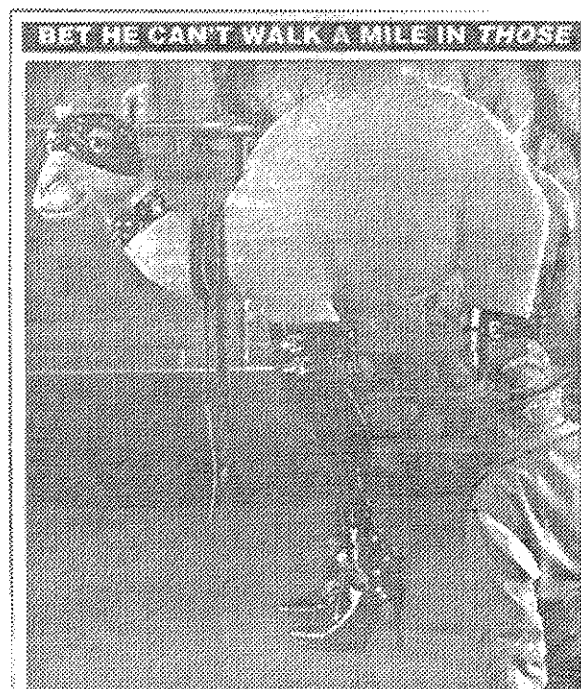


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macromedia

So said: **Mark, JohnS., Tina Rock and benedick.** This really scored with our readers. We received four copies from different sources. Thanks to all.



"A worker in Berlin pastes up a poster featuring advertising icon Joe Camel, part of a new campaign launched in Germany by US cigarette maker, R.J. Reynolds. The controversial character, here turned out in S&M gear, has been exiled from the US because he appeals to kids too young to smoke. (Reuter)"

(Even our non-scene friends are saving items for us for this page!)

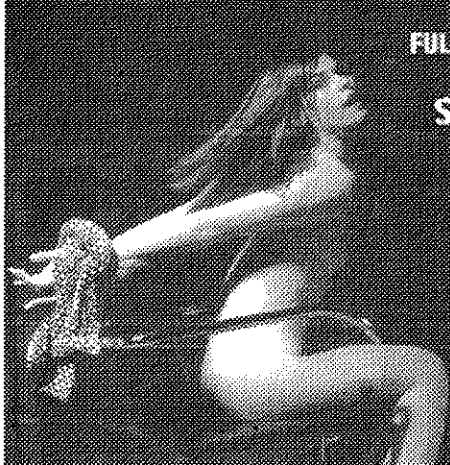
True Story from *Guardian* readers the *Paperverts*:

I was outside at a large BDSM event and overheard the following conversation between two DM's:

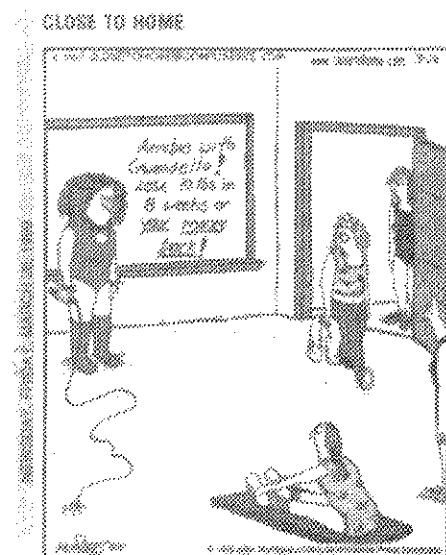
"There's some guy down there that wants to fuck a plastic blow-up doll. Can he do that? The second DM thinks a while and asks, "Well, is it his doll?" First DM says, "Yeah, he brought it with him." Second DM ponders the question and says, "Yeah, well, I guess that would be OK ... Tell him to use a condom, though." !!!?❖

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Mary Nora in NJ found this centerfold in "Bizarre" Magazine.



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(1) Unroll condom approximately 5", (distance between tip of handle and middle of hoop).

(2) With slingshot frame facing you, hook rolled edge of condom over bottom of flange and carefully stretch over rest of flange until condom snaps in groove. (see illustration A). If condom is not properly aligned with opening of slingshot, adjust rolled edge accordingly.

(3) Poke condom through loop as shown in illustration B. (This must be done after each shot so that condom will not slip off of flange.)

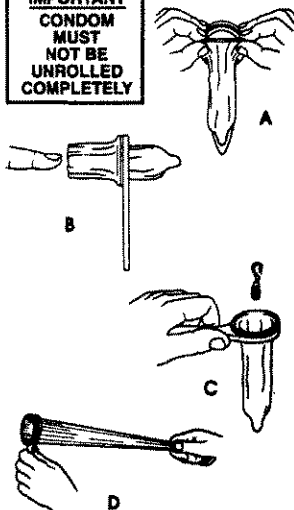
(4) Drop soft rubber ammo into bottom of condom. (Illustration C)

Warning: The Condom Cannon shoots surprisingly hard. **NEVER** aim toward people or animals.

(5) Grasp end of condom around ammo and draw back, making sure slingshot is not tilted forward or back, but at a right angle to condom. Release condom to fire. (Illustration D)

NOTE: CONDOMS SUPPLIED WITH THIS PRODUCT ARE NOT INTENDED FOR CONTRACEPTIVE USE.

**IMPORTANT
CONDOM
MUST
NOT BE
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For dungeon use, it is not only stinging painful ... but absurdly humiliating to be hit with too! Even with the super-soft gummy pellets provided, "surprisingly hard" is an understatement. Check the restraints for security before bringing out this Subbie Stimulator.



Even Space Ghost is getting into SM! Look for it at your local novelty shop.

Tips from our Readers:

One of **The Guardian's** features I've enjoyed is reviews of scene-appropriate music. Here's something that might be of interest:

The Beatnik Moodmaker offered free at the web site of **Beatnik**.—

www.headspace.com/beatnik

Choose on of 15 moods (such as mystical, affectionate or creeping fear) and combine it with one of 17 atmospheres (such as rainforest, thunderstorm or night factory) and the program cranks out nonstop stereo mood music that can best be described as background movie music.

All you need is a relatively recent computer equipped for sound, and Internet connection and a recent browser. Enjoy

John S.

I just found a neat restraint. GB Electrical, Inc. 6101 No. Baker Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53209 makes a product called **GB Grip Strips**. The 15" ties seem to be very interesting as wrist and ankle ties. **Sears** carries them locally.

Dave L.

WOODWORKER'S STORE 800-321-6840

Rope Ratchet

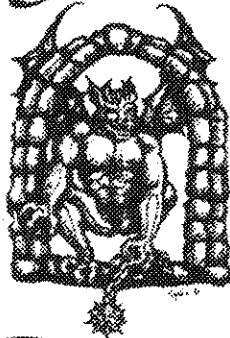


Rope Ratchet is a unique, compact ratchet system that allows you to secure a wide variety of items quickly and easily. Unlike standard tiedowns methods that require time consuming, hard to do knots, or elastic cords that stretch, Rope Ratchet is fast, easy to use and will not stretch. Rope Ratchet lets you secure items as lightly as needed so they won't shift or slip. It's easy to use... just hook the ratchet and cord hook in place and pull the free end of the cord. Rope Ratchet automatically locks the cord in place. To loosen the rope just press the release lever. Includes 10 feet of rope and required hooks.

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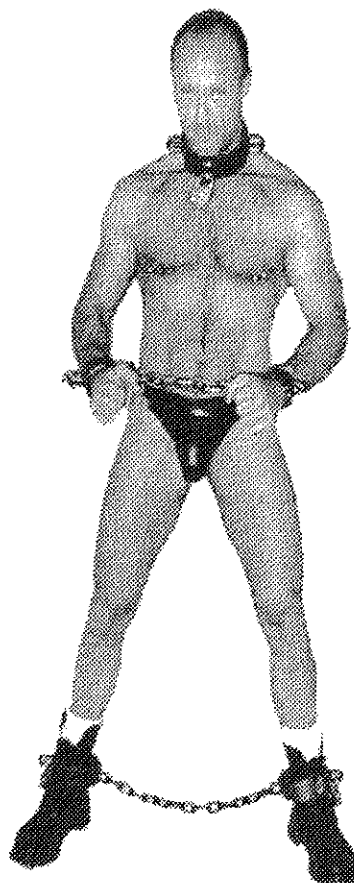
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Scanlon vs GMSMA:

MY SIDE *by Chris Scanlon*

I was on the board of GMSMA and had been taking photographs for a number of years. I had had several disputes over photo credit. Photographs of mine would be used in Newslink and never credited. This always annoyed me. I would object and promises would be made that it would not happen again. It did. It was always said, oh it's Scanlon again complaining, will he ever stop.

Bruce Marcus was largely in control of *Newslink* during this time and he refused to give photo credit. Finally I stopped photographing the events and left the board over this issue.

However, when I opened my mailing from *Checkmate* Magazine in May '95 and saw two photographs of mine, I was furious!

If they had stopped at that point, nothing else would have happened. They did not.

When John Weis walked away from me at The Lure as I was objecting to yet another photograph of mine being used on a flyer, that was the last straw. I decided that the only way they would take notice is if they were sued. When you are dealing with an ego and an arrogance as gigantic as Bruce Marcus',

that's the only way.

In a nutshell, it all started because Bruce refused to give photo credit when he published my Photographs.

Then after the lawsuit was started, Bruce Marcus, John Weis and GMSMA began a malicious campaign to vilify me and destroy my reputation. To that end, Bruce Marcus and John Weis wrote a letter dated April 5, 1997. This letter, on GMSMA letterhead, signed by Marcus and Weis in their capacities as Chairman and President of GMSMA, was distributed to all members of GMSMA and approx. a further 1,000 non members, including clubs, bars and other businesses. This letter purported

to characterize my claims in the lawsuit, my motives for bringing the lawsuit, the facts surrounding and giving rise to the lawsuit and the likely results from the lawsuit

In addition to mailing this letter to 1,500 individuals, defendants placed the letter in prominent places in various clubs, bars and other meeting places in New York. Defendants also placed this letter on GMSMA's internet site, prominently displaying my name. Defendants Marcus and Weis, however, choose to display only their last initials and first name, in order to safeguard their own identities from Internet search engines, while publicizing mine and jeopardizing my privacy interests.

The letter contained several false and defamatory statements concerning me. Included among them was defendants' statement that:

My lawsuit is a clear attack on the organization and on [the readers'] right to privacy

I demanded that official GMSMA photographs be turned over to me

Additionally, Bruce, John and GMSMA repeatedly defamed me by insisting that the Leather Pride Night Committee ban me from attending the event in June of '98.

(Ed note: This measure passed Aye: 2 Nay: 0 Abstaining: 8. Scanlon and a companion were turned away at the door of the event by LPN Security Volunteers -and ticket prices refunded.)

Bruce Marcus and John Weis knew that these statements were false at the time they made them. They admitted, in their own deposition testimony, that they had no basis whatsoever for asserting or believing that any actions I had taken would, in any way, jeopardize the privacy interests of GMSMA members or of anyone else. They admitted also that they had no basis whatsoever for believing that I intended to use the photographs in any manner which would violate these privacy interests.

(Ed note: As we go to press, efforts at Mediation having proved unfruitful, Chris and the GMSMA defendants will return to Judge Motley's court for trial of the Defamation case. The Guardian has not been advised of GMSMA fundraising for these proceedings. For more on this case, see issues #28-32)



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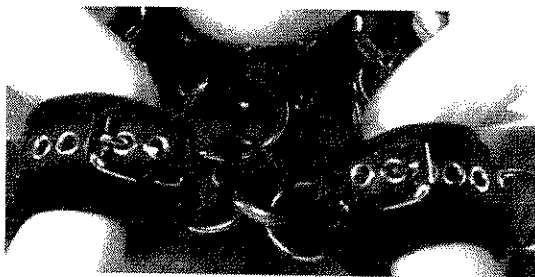
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See ourselves as others see us Florida Clubs in the News

The Orlando Sentinel, and its Osceola section Feb 1999.
SM Club "raided" in Orlando

KISSIMMEE — The building license said it was home to Heart U.S.A. Janitorial Services, but detectives say there wasn't a mop or broom in sight. It was really a cover for a sex club specializing in bondage and torture at weekly parties where patrons, according to the club's web site, could enjoy "safe, sane and consensual fun between adults over 21."

After making reservations through the Internet, undercover detectives posed as patrons three times during their two-month investigation of the club. (*Patrons had to present drivers licenses and sign a form indicating they were not police officers investigating the club.*) During their visits they were shown whips, chains, canes, paddles and restraint devices, as well as a gynecological exam table and an I-beam suspension system able to lift participants off the floor. This culminated in misdemeanor charges against Neil Orris, Beverly Orris, and Jack Heart, with running the club for "lewd activities." The Orrises were charged with operating a business without an occupational license and operating for the purpose of lewd activities; Heart, with committing lewd acts. They were each released on \$750 bail.

"We're not here to pass judgment on their sexual preferences," said Police Cmdr. Pam Rousch. *"But it's against the law to charge people to watch sadomasochistic acts."*

The club, also known as the Alternative Lifestyle Community House, was at a converted 2,500-square-foot warehouse and had been open for about a year. Admission to the parties ranged from \$15 to \$50. Between 30 and 50 people attended the events in the two-story dungeon.

State alcohol and tobacco agents, and city building inspectors closed the facility for various health and safety violations, including exposed electrical outlets and the serving of beverages without a permit. Rousch said investigators also found hidden video cameras in the club's ceiling that may have been used to record the parties. If patrons were recorded without their permission, more charges will follow. Tapes from the club were confiscated by investigators armed with search and arrest warrants. The investigation is continuing.

Owners (of Studio Heart) will plead Not Guilty. "It was nothing more than a studio where consenting adults engaged in role playing and acting out their fantasies," said the club owners' attorney. "This was overkill on the part of the police and the city." He said Beverly Orris suffered a heart attack while in custody, cuffed hand and foot to a hospital bed during her processing. "Is it normal police procedure to shackle someone who has a heart condition and was charged with a second degree misdemeanor to a hospital bed while they are having a heart attack?"

Kissimmee investigators say they treated Orris properly. "When Ms. Orris was arrested she said she wanted a nitroglycerine pill," said police Comdr Pam Rousch. "She didn't ask for medical assistance and was taken to the police dept. where an

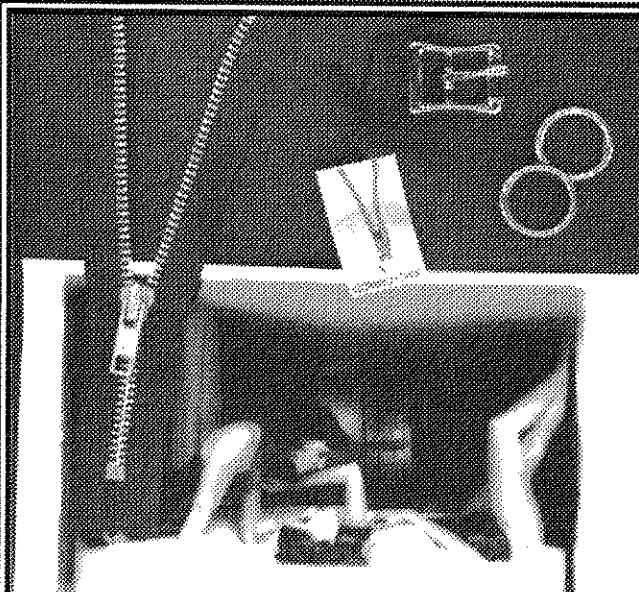
officer who is an emergency medical tech. stood by. She said she was fine and was released from the police into the custody of the Osceola County Jail. We heard later she was taken to the hospital by the jail staff." Jail Director Joyce Riggins said they normally restrain at least one limb of a prisoner unless medical personnel say it will interfere with treatment. Orris was released on bail after receiving hospital treatment.

The owners' spokesman also blamed public misconceptions about the bondage community for the arrests. "It's fear of the unknown," he said. "My client was portrayed as some kind of witch, when this (SM) is much more popular than people believe. This is fantasy role playing, not actual torture. All of the restraints were breakaways so no one is truly restrained."

A California Sex therapist says people who practice bondage are not mentally ill. "This is not a psychological sickness," said William Fitzgerald, who has treated many bondage couples. "It is a 'sexual restriction.' S&M people are restricted in their sexual repertoire, just like a man who is unable to orgasm unless he is looking at a pictures of nudes."

Members of Orris' club question the law's definition of lewd. "I would call this moral persecution," said Rob Brow, a computer consultant from Tampa who frequented the club. "You have a group of individuals who are offended by what they deem lewd acts between consenting adults over 21 in a private club. At what point can a municipality or the govern-

continued on pg 41

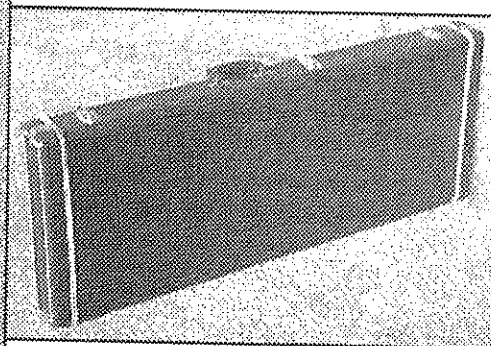
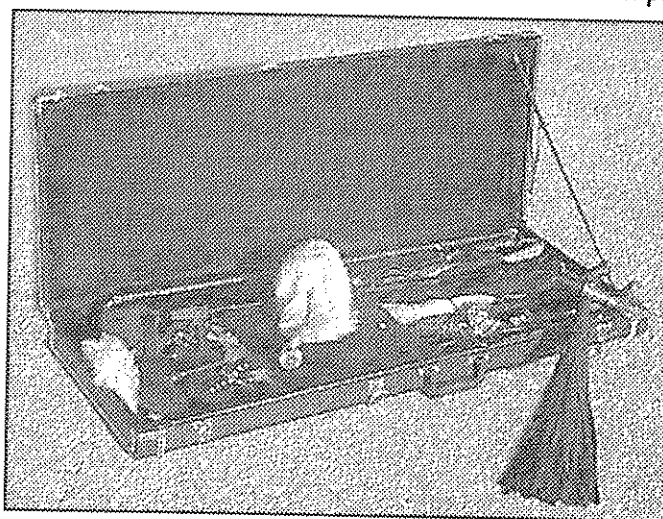


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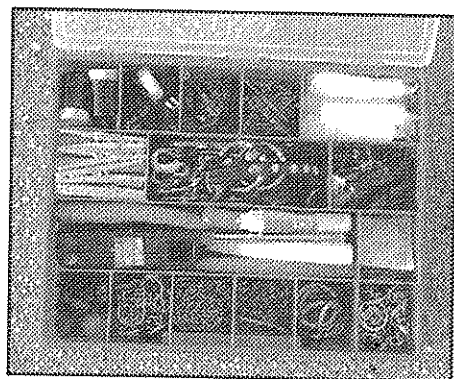


How Mistress SxySadist Travels

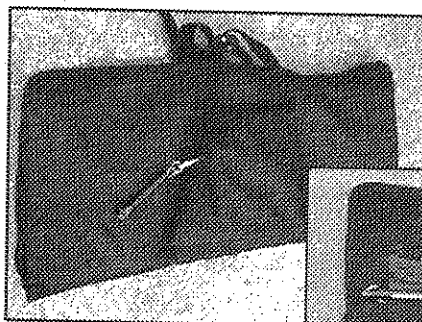
The guitar case is readily available in music stores and easily customizable to fit floggers and other wonderful goodies. I added some small eye hooks to enable me to slip bungee cords across to hold them in place. The case is sturdy enough to protect my precious toys from damage and very discreet when travelling. I prefer to lay it flat when I use it, but I have seen others that stand it on end and hang the toys as in a little closet.



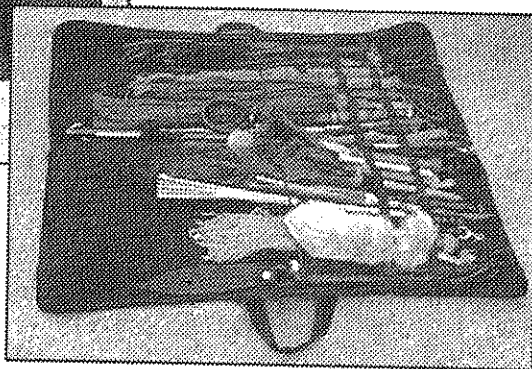
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This soft keyboard case is wonderfully lightweight. With a few strips of elastic sewn in, makes an ideal equipment case. Stitch the elastic every few inches and it can easily hold the floggers, canes, crops, etc.. the front has one fat, deep pocket for holding bulky cuffs and hoods and also a large flat pocket that I use to hold paddles and such.



As others see us

continued from pg 39

ment rightfully interfere in what people do for entertainment or social activity?" Brow estimates there are 50 bondage clubs in Florida and the number is growing.

Officials said the courts will decide ultimately whether the club was legal. "We received complaints about the club and I turned it over to the police dept.," said Kissimmee City Manager Mark Durbin. "I'm against anything illegal, but if the State's Attorney tells us it is legal, obviously we will have to reevaluate. As long as we are under the impression it is illegal, we will continue to take action against places like this."

In related events, spokesmen for the SPICE group in Ft. Lauderdale say they will tighten membership procedures to reinforce their status as a Private Club and to guard against undercover officers gaining admission fraudulently as they did in Kissimmee.

In Tampa, a couple of years ago, "Master Troy," had a police visit to his home — along with a media cadre! What was he doing to rate a public arrest and the confiscation of his equipment, videos and computers? He ran a properly licensed adult video production studio, a video exchange club and loaned out the dungeon/set for people to do scenes.

One of the club members turned out to be an undercover detective who, after a few months as a member, asked for a "private demonstration." The evening of the demo, he arrived with two "friends" who handed the mistress \$500 and commented that their friend was "expecting sex." She replied, "We'll just have to change his mind then, won't we," and left the money on the table. In the other room, the officer was reminded that sex was not part of this, and that he would be watching a demonstration of "leather induced tactile sensation" and of "Restraint and Pleasure."

Shortly after it started, a swarm of police came in and arrested all present. They were not read their rights and not allowed to call an attorney. The media were there to record it all and had a field day! TV news had the SM equipment and furniture being taken out of the house and the newspaper even added embellishments such as a satanic altar and skulls that weren't there.

The local reaction was split: some neighbors wouldn't speak to him, others gave him a thumbs up when he drove by.

Speculation is that the police wanted to bolster their budget request with the appearance of "doing something." Their budget increase was approved, and Master Troy still is working to clear his name.

And on a happier note, from Tom and Lynda Gayle :

The police came into our *Diversions* convention in Daytona Beach the last night ... into the dungeon area. A young man, the son of a prominent physician wanted to crash our party. He tried to push past our security who called the hotel security ... and he tried to push past them! Then he stepped outside, called the police and said something illegal was going on. They were there in three minutes. I asked if we needed to call our attorney. They said no. Their supervisor came, looked, talked to both hotel and our security, and asked me what we wanted to do with the young man (who was over 21). I asked him to get the young man to go home, stay there and sober up. When the supervisor came back in to thank us for helping him, I asked if they would like to know about some of the equipment so they would not be fearful if they ever saw anything like it again.

On the "ball stretcher," the supervisor joked why we didn't just take the young man's money and put him in there for the rest of the evening!

We explained that it was a convention with dinners and dances ... just like any convention. On leaving he said, "The next time you are in town, just let us know and we will not let you be harassed by any outsiders." ♦

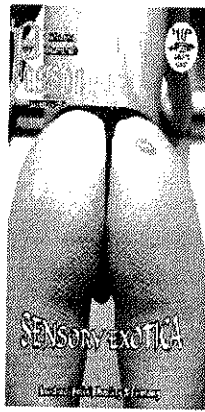
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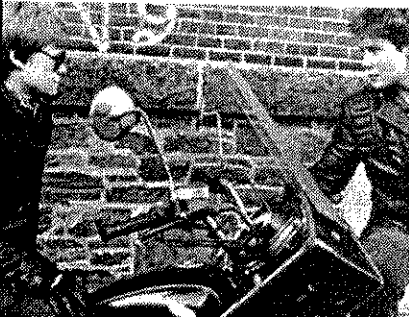
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The image above, a detail from Connie Meredith's *Leatherdykes 102*, is from the LA&M's too small collection of women's work.

Scholarly Writings on BDSM and Related Themes: A Bibliography

Part II Articles in Magazines and Journals

by Michael P. Marks, Ph.D.

In part one (Issue #32) Dr. Marks provided a guide to those interested in the scholarly books on BDSM-related themes. Not included were "beginner's level" books or how-to guides to activities. The sources listed were written by 20th century academicians (not necessarily "scene" people) with a view toward explaining some aspect of alternative sexuality. Some of these authors also had shorter works included in magazines and the anthologies of other authors. These are some of them. We invite readers to add to these lists.

Psychological Accounts

Baumeister, Roy F. "Masochism as Escape from Self," *The Journal of Sex Research*. Vol.25, No.1, Feb '88, pp. 28-59.

Baumeister, Roy F., "The Enigmatic Appeal of Sexual Masochism: Why People Desire Pain, Bondage, and Humiliation in Sex," *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*. Vol.16, No.1, 1997, pp.133-150.

Epstein, Arthur W., "Fetishism: A Comprehensive View," in Jules H. Masserman (ed.), *Dynamics of Deviant Sexuality*. New York: Grune & Stratton, 1969.

Franklin, D., "The Politics of Masochism," *Psychology Today*. Vol.21, No.1, 1987, pp.52

Gebhard, Paul H., "Fetishism and Sadoomasochism," in Jules H. Masserman (ed.), *Dynamics of Deviant Sexuality*. New York: Grune & Stratton, 1969.

Levitt, Eugene E. "Sadomasochism," *Sexual Behavior*. Vol. 1, No.6, 1971, pp.69-80.

Rioch, David McK. and Weinstein, Edwin A. "Categories of Sexual Phenomena with Reference to Symbolic Behavior," in Jules H. Masserman (ed.), *Dynamics of Deviant Sexuality*. New York: Grune & Stratton, 1969.

Spengler, Andreas. "Manifest Sadomasochism of Males: Results of an Empirical Study," *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. Vol.6, No.6, 1977, pp.441-456.

Sociological Perspectives on SM

Brodsky, Joel I. "The Mineshaft: A Retrospective Ethnography," *Journal of Homosexuality*. Vol.24, No.3/4, 1993, pp.233-251.

Blimes, Jacob and Howard, Alan. "Pain as Cultural Drama," *Anthropology and Humanism Quarterly*. Vol. 5, June-September 1980, pp.10-13.

Lee, John Alan. "The Social Organization of Sexual Risk," *Alternative Lifestyles*. Vol.2, No.1, Feb79, pp.69-100.

Moser, Charles. "Sadomasochism," *Journal of Social Work* and Human Sexuality*. Vol-7, No. 1, 1988, pp.43-59.

Warren, V.L. "Explaining Masochism," *Journal for the Theory of Social Behavior*. Vol. 15, No.2, '85, pp. 103-130.

Weinberg, Martin S.; Williams, Colin J. and Moser, Charles. "The Social Constituents of Sadomasochism," *Social Problems*. Vol.31, No.4, Apr'84, pp.379-389.



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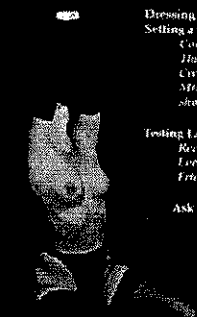
Consent's other Dirty Side and Creative Domme Mistress Pleasured slaves get here

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Revisiting the book: Lord Frederick's Friends

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The Collaring, Part II
The fantasy continues...

A positively Naughty Publication for consenting adults by consenting adults.

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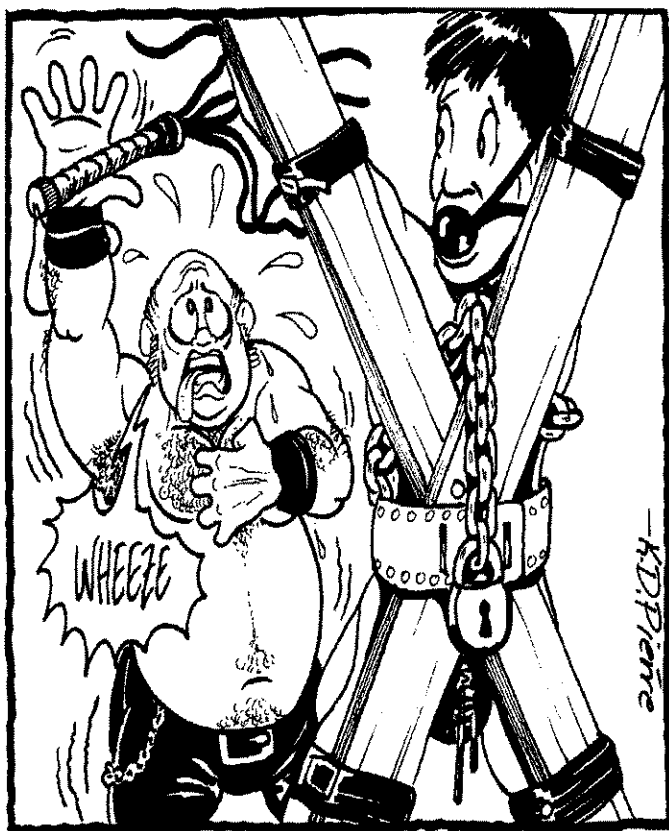
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Every responsible TOP must know CPR!

--- Chicken Little



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An Eti-Quiz for Tops, Bottoms ~ ... and those who know them Third of a Series

by Carolyn and Steve Vakesh

How did you do on the previous Eti-Quizzes? Ready for another one?

Recovering from Faux Pas

1) You have mistaken a woman for a submissive and asked her to play. She informs you she is in fact, dominant. Do you:

a) Apologize and offer to be her submissive for the evening?

b) Apologize and find someone more interesting to talk to?

c) Point out that she should try submission to you before she commits to dominance?

d) Explain that her dominance makes you want her at your feet even more.

e) Apologize and continue the conversation as if nothing had happened?

f) Begin a friendly conversation by politely asking her what made her decide to become a dominant?

2) You play with someone who asked not to be marked but you accidentally bruised him. Do you:

a) Refrain from mentioning it?

b) apologize and explain that it was inadvertent?

c) Apologize and point out that this is one of the risks encountered in BDSM?

d) Ask why he's so hung up about the No Marks Rule?

e) Explain that as the Top, such rules are merely a guideline and you chose not to follow this one?

f) Offer to let him bruise you?

3) You played with someone who told you that she was free to play. Her Owner apparently had a differ-

ent perception and now wants to discuss it with you. Do you:

a) Flee to the other end of the room and find something fascinating at the snack table?

b) Tell him that you can't help it if his slave was overcome by lust at seeing a "real" Top?

c) Explain what happened and apologize?

d) Explain the situation and demand that he punish the submissive for putting you in this situation?

e) Offer him the use of your slave in exchange?

4) You borrowed a paddle from a friend and accidentally broke it while hitting your boytoy. Do you:

a) "Forget" to return it in hope its owner won't notice?

b) Try to fix it yourself?

c) Offer to buy the owner a new one?

d) Chide the owner for having such low-quality toys?

e) Brag about the endurance of your iron-butt slave and offer the broken paddle as proof?

(What if, instead of a paddle, you broke a rattan cane? Does that change the situation?)

Answers and Scoring:

1. a-1 b-2 c-0 d-1 e-5 f-3

2. a-1 b-5 c-2 d-0 e-0 f-1

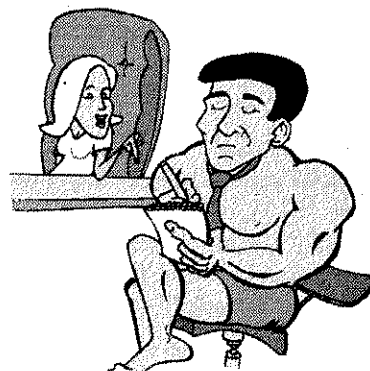
3. a-1 b-0 c-5 d-3 e-1

4. a-0 b-2 c-5 d-0 e-1

If you scored:

16-20: Teflon Coated. You recover so well from your mistakes that problems seem to slip right off.

5-12: Faux Possible. You are pretty good at recovering from mistakes and problems.



0-4 Faux Poo! Everyone makes mistakes. The smart ones learn from them. The truly savvy see them as opportunities. Don't be defensive. Make the most of your opportunities to recover from faux pas.

1) Answer: A simple apology is sufficient. There is no need to bottom to her or make her dominance the topic of conversation.

2) Answer: The no marks requirement can be quite frustrating as some people bruise if you just sneeze on them while others bounce back unmarked with all the resiliency of cartoon characters. Still, no marks means no marks. By marking him, you've broken trust. You must rebuild that trust before you can have any sort of friendly relationship with the person in the future. If you've marked someone by accident, apologize, explain it was not intentional, and promise to avoid that mistake in the future. You might want to do a little research into non-marking toys.

3) Answer: The BDSM community values honor above all else. You must take responsibility for your actions and you must apologize. Since the slave is not yours, her punishment is none of your concern, though she certainly deserves to be punished.

4) Answer: "You broke it, you bought it" applies to BDSM as well. If you break someone's toys you are honor-bound to replace them. Even in the case of a rattan cane, you

should still offer to replace the item, though the owner should recognize that these do break and refuse your generous offer unless the cane is fairly new. If you break another cane, clearly the problem is with you.

Interacting with 24/7 Master/slave Couples

1) You have invited a 24/7 Master/slave couple to your house for coffee. The Master sits but the slave does not. Do you offer the slave a chair?

- a) Yes b) No

2) You have invited a 24/7 Mistress/slave couple to your house for coffee with other scene friendly people. The Mistress has ordered her slave to sit quietly and not move until her return. After a time you notice that the slave is shivering. The room has gotten too cold for the slave's scanty attire. Do you:

- a) Bring a blanket to the slave?
b) Urge her to put on something warmer?
c) Turn up the heat even though it may make the other guests uncomfortable?
d) Tell the Mistress that her slave is cold?
e) Ignore the situation?

You and your slave are visiting someone who understands and participates in the BDSM lifestyle. The host of the house gets up to clean the plates from the table and serve the next course.

3) Do you offer your slave's assistance?

- a) Yes b) No

4) Do you offer to assist?

- a) Yes b) No

5) You are in a fancy French restaurant with your slave and another BDSM couple. Your slave misbehaves in some minor fashion. Do you:

a) Bend him over your knee and give him a sound spanking for his insolence?

b) Order him to wait in the car?

c) Quietly inform him that he will be punished later for his actions?

d) Punish him in an unobtrusive fashion?

e) Ignore the situation?

Answers and Scoring:

1. a-0 b-5
2. a-2 b-1 c-0 d-4 e-5
3. a-5 b-0
4. a-4 b-5
5. a-0 b-3 c-4 d-5 e-2

If you scored:

21-25: Top Notch! You know how to make 24/7 one long stretch of gentility and good taste.

11-20: Bound to Please! You know to step carefully with 24/7 couples. Keep minding your manners and you'll have it made.

0-10 Short Sighted. Yes, 24/7 is different. Pay attention to the differences to raise your score.

1) **Answer:** No. You ask the Master if he'd like his slave to have a chair. Until you know them better, you should direct these sorts of questions to him. In many contracts, slaves have no rights to furniture, or many other things. Their owners make these decisions for them.

2) **Answer:** A little shivering never killed anyone and the Mistress is probably aware of the situation. It's hardly unexpected. If it persists for a while and you don't believe that the top knows, let her know. As a host you have an obligation to ensure the wellbeing of all your guests. Still, you must abide by her decision regarding her property.

3 & 4) **Answers:** Owning a slave does not excuse you from normal courtesy. BDSM should make you a more courteous guest, not less. As a polite guest, you will of course offer

your slave's assistance. If it's a small job, that should be sufficient. The whole point of owning a slave is to save you such nuisances, so there is no need for you, yourself to help. However, if it is a big job, like cleaning up after a party, both you and your slave should help.

5) **Answer:** Freaking the mundanes has its appeals, but you are obligated to warn your friends in advance. They might want to return to that restaurant. In most cases, acting out in a fancy vanilla restaurant is inappropriate. If punishment is really the issue there are many unobtrusive ways to do this, such as having him sit on his hands. At worst this looks slightly strange and should serve both as a reminder and to keep him out of further trouble. Obviously bad slaves don't get dessert. Ignoring the situation or threatening to punish him later (especially if you don't follow through) may undermine your authority with your slave. ♦

Next time: Telephone Manners
(Also see #31 & 32)

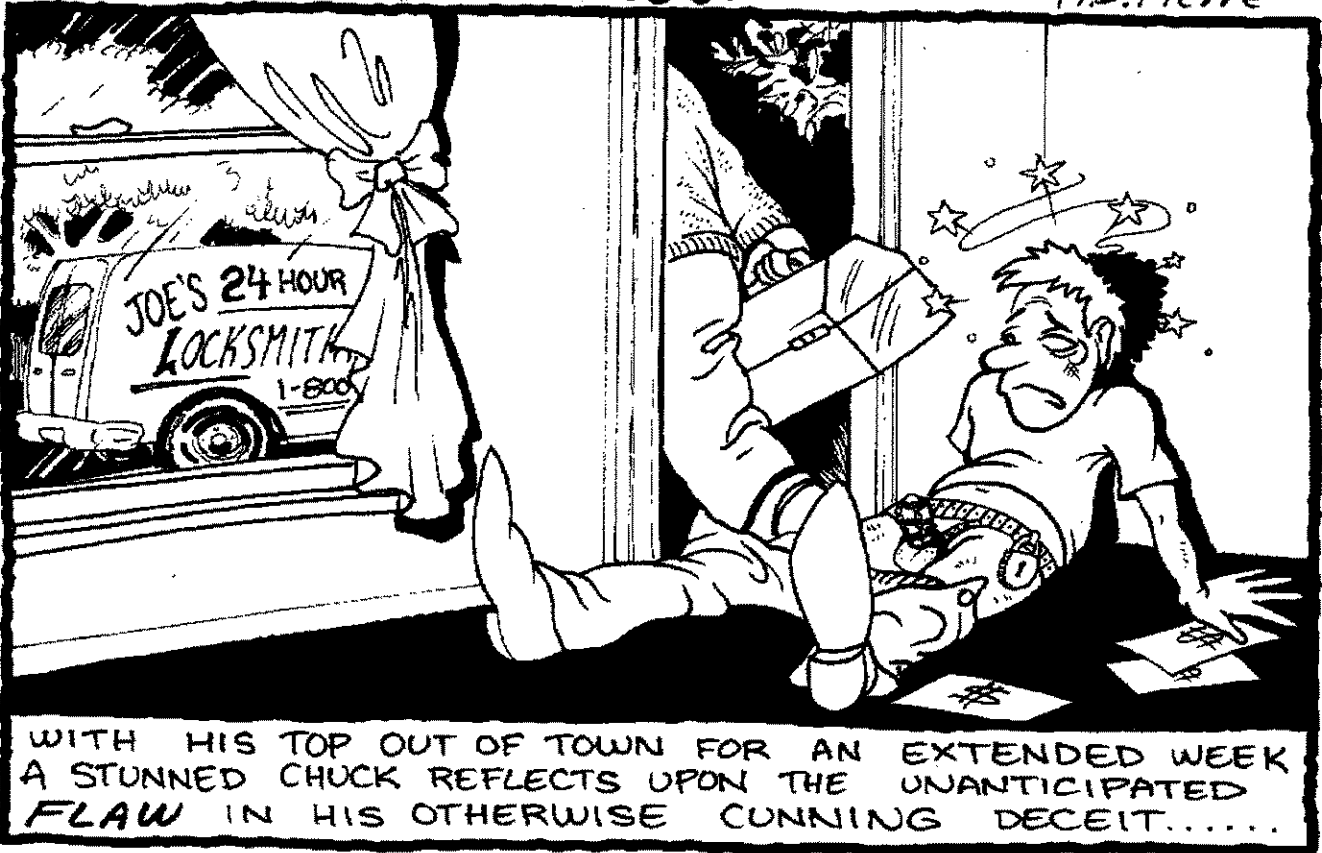
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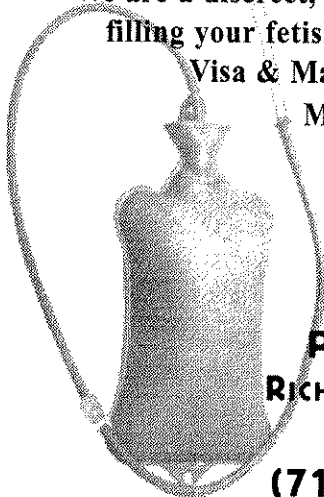
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In Their Own Words:

NLA-PORTLAND IS DEAD LONG LIVE NLA-PORTLAND!

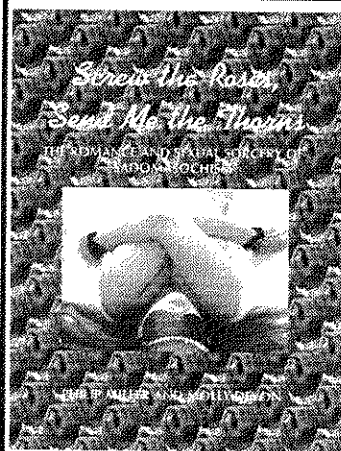
Those of you who are at all active in the local kink community are probably aware that the Portland chapter of the National Leather Association, (NLA: Portland or NLA-P) had its charter revoked on Dec. 1, 1998 by the parent organization, NLA:International.

Most people aren't aware of the contorted details that led up to this break — *nor do they need to be (emphasis added-Ed.)* — and I'm not going to go into them here. Suffice it to say that there were issues of conflict between the chapter and the international organization, and some miscommunications and misunderstandings, many of which were amiably resolved and some of which remained insoluble. Finally, after careful due process, the two groups respectfully parted ways.

All that is now history. The focus from here on is on the future, and that's what this brief article is about — the future of the club formerly known as NLA: Portland and the future of the vibrant, thriving larger BDSM community we all belong to.

Uppermost in importance is the fact that Portland hasn't lost anything. The group of about 100 members who made up NLA: Portland still comprise the membership of a new club that, in most of the key ways, remains the same as the old club. Those who are also members of NLA-International will remain members of the international organization. There is talk of some of these folks getting together to apply for a new charter to create a new NLA-P chapter, which can easily exist alongside the newly independent club. People may choose to be members of one, or the other, or in many cases, of both. It's officially two groups now rather than one, but the human beings involved are still the same. ♦

(From the RCDC - Rose City Discussion Club - newsletter.)



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ADAM AND GILLIAN'S CORNER

The First Time I Used It ...

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But, as a toy seller and whipmaker I try for a standard of durability I call "Mistress Proof." The item should withstand a year's daily use by an enthusiastic and energetic professional dominatrix. In fact, when I started, I placed prototypes in Leather Houses for evaluation. If they came back broken, they needed more design development. If they didn't come back at all they were ready for sale. As a result, I'm happy with a 1 year "all defects" guarantee. Nonetheless, from time to time, examples of even the most robust and time-tested designs come back ... and they always "broke the first time they were used." When this

happens I remember the "Customer is Always Right" and also this passage from *Whips and Whipmaking* by WG Ashford of the Firm of W & G Ashford, Birmingham England ... from the year 1893 as quoted in David Morgan's *Whips and Whip Making*, published by Cornell Maritime Press Inc. 1985.

"It is really astonishing how often, according to the user's account, the stick broke, 'the first time I smacked it.' It will be found more often than not, when holly sticks are brought back broken, that the end of the thong is squeezed and grease-marked, shewing that it has been caught round the wheel or axle; or that the thong is scored and marked where it is quilled up, showing that it has been against the top of the coach-house door or into some low hanging boughs in a lane, rather than that there was any real fault in the stick

itself. We know that the saddler very frequently dare not point out such facts, but he may remind a customer that the top of a holly whip is not as thick as a lead pencil, and consequently, although it will stand fair, it will not stand long or rough usage."

La Plus c'est change, la plus c'est la meme chose!

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Yours cruelly,
Masterwhip & vixen

Hi Gillian,

I received the toys. Everything is as expected or better. My little slave

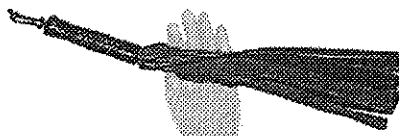
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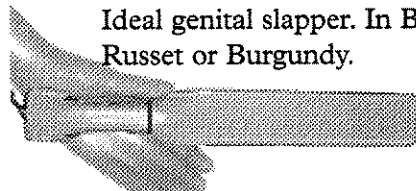
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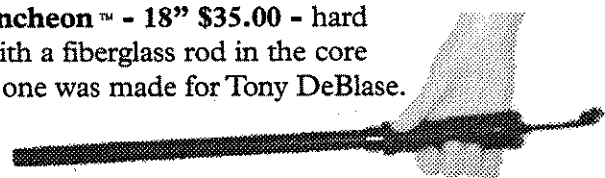
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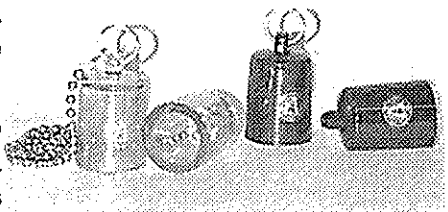
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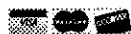
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"... but we don't take American Express!"

received them also, butt from the other end. The canes are perfect and I was surprised that she preferred the stiffer one.

The **Little Bear™** was a risk. A little bit of OTK with it after a good hand warm up got her off the ground into big "O" heaven. She liked the cat so much she wants to take it home. No way! The **Flying Linguini™** was nice and she couldn't get enough of it.

She is "standing" here and thanking you for a job well done. To-night she will have a little guessing game to play after cleaning and preparing the dungeon: after all, that is what slaves are for. While she is doing that, I will be doing the dishes. Thanks,

Daniel

Hello,

How are you guys, I'm writing because last night you came to our rescue in the form of **White Lightnin'™**. See, lately we've been having less opportunity to play since the kids are getting older, and therefore staying up later ... and getting more curious too. We've had to save

some of our noisier fun for their sleepovers at grandma's. Last night we discovered that a certain switch of yours is actually quite stealthy.

Now since my honey likes to use a switch, and I don't like them very much, (I'd rather be paddled 200 times than be switched 20!) they make the perfect "punishment" weapon! And due to some past "pissiness" on my part, that's just what happened. We don't do the "real punishment thing" often, and only when we mutually agree it's deserved, but for that very reason they are always very emotional sessions for me. Anyway, as a result of last night, two things were learned: the **White Lightnin'** is as quiet as it is effective, and pissy behavior will get you a weltd behind! And so, 'thanks' (I think?) for manufacturing such a versatile product. (You should see how well-behaved I've been today.)

KD Pierre

PS: Does the 'Top in each of you get a vicarious kick out of knowing that your products are out there roasting zillions of behinds? -KD❖

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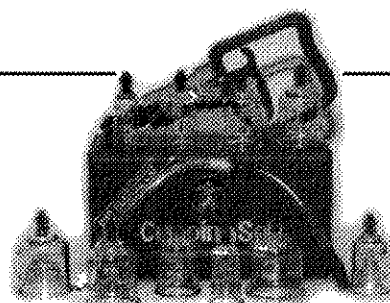


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Anything!

by Screamer

Okay, listen up. I want all of you submissives on this side of the room, all the dominants over there. Got that? It's time to get some things straight between all of us, so we can get more of what we want and need out of this lifestyle. Is everyone paying attention? Hey, you. In the back row. Put that magazine down and pay attention. And yes, switches can sit in the middle if it makes you feel better.

I've really only got a couple of complaints, so this shouldn't take too long. You don't have to take notes, there's not going to be a quiz, I promise. Here's what I want to know:

What's up with this "Anything" crap? When you ask a potential bottoming play partner what they want, so many of them come up with this, "Anything that will please you," or this, "Anything that you wish".

I don't want to hear that. That's not why I'm asking and while you should be commended on your readiness to serve, I won't be commending you. I want the truth. I want honesty. I want to know what you're looking for. I might be it, I might not.

I don't want to hear, in answer to the question, "What are you looking for?" an answer like, "To please you, Mistress."

First of all, at that point, I'm not your mistress. Second of all, nine times out of ten, that's *not* what you're looking for! You're looking to get tied up and beat, or you're looking for good old-fashioned tie and fuck. What you're hoping is that tying you up and beating you is what pleases me. And depending on the day, you may be right. But then again, you may not. Do you really

want to take that chance? Maybe what would please me on that day is having my toilet cleaned and my back yard mowed. And no, that's not foreplay to getting tied and fucked. It's the whole kit 'n' kaboodle. That's it. Mow my yard. You want to please me and nothing more? That'll do it. Here's the mower. Get busy.

But if what you're looking for is a good old fashioned beating, then you had better say that. Because chances are, if you don't, you might not get it. I can't read your mind. I have no desire to. I'm not asking the question to hear myself talk. I'm asking because I want to know. And if you don't want to tell me, why should I guess?

I dislike the word negotiation for some reason. I don't want to negotiate. I want to know what you want, so I can tell you if I can provide it to you or not. I might be willing to try something you like, I might not. But unless you answer my questions honestly, you're never going to know, are you?

I ask another question, when talking to a potential play partner. "What are your limits?" If the person replies "I have no limits", I ask them if they'd mind if I took their hand off with a chain saw. That usually wises them right up. Sometimes, they answer, "If it pleases you, Mistress." That scares me! Bye bye.

Everyone has limits. Even if you've only been in the lifestyle for a short time, and you don't know all of your limits yet, you know at least a few. Is death a limit for you? How about dismemberment? Permanent body modifications? Rape fantasies? Walking naked down Main Street in

a collar and on a leash? Any of these things ringing true for you yet? If so, you'd better lay it all on the line when a Top asks you what your limits are.

And don't lie about your experience, either. It's tacky as well as downright dangerous. If you've never had a single tail used on you, say so. I'm not going to think any less of you, as a matter of fact, I like breaking in virgins. All Dominants don't, no. But some of us do. And those are the ones you, as a bottom, want to play with as a virgin anyway.

And don't be in such a damn hurry to get into your position that you forget what you're doing there. While some Dominants don't mind being used as a tool, some of us do. I am a Dominant woman. I don't play with smart-assed masochists who try to "brat" their way into a beating. If you're not looking to be submissive, be up front about it. You owe us that.

And Dominants? We owe that much to our counterparts, too. I've seen a lot of Dominants do things that they didn't want to do, to please the submissive. Some find this admirable. And to a point, I do reward. If you mow my grass and do a good job, I may reward you with a bondage scene. If you're only enduring it to get to that point, you are not going to do a good job, and neither of us is going to end up being pleased. Dominants need to be as honest and forthright as we ask our partners to be. Take a stand on that.

Think carefully before you answer a question. Open your heart and soul, and allow your partner to peer inside. They may be very pleased with what they see. And if they're not? You don't want to play with them anyway. It's really that simple. That's all. You can all go back to mingling now. Enjoy yourselves. Be safe, be happy, be honest. ♦

Writer's Guidelines -- for *THE SANDMUTOPIAN GUARDIAN*

a Journal of BDSM Realities

The Guardian is first and foremost a practical guide to safe and enjoyable exotic eroticism. Think of it as a combination of *Popular Mechanics*™ and *Consumer's Digest*™ for kinky sex. Our ambition is to become the independent "Journal of Record" of BDSM. Our readership includes people of *all* sexual orientations, gender identities and power polarities. While readers' experience levels range from, "just thinking about it," to "lifestyle devotee," we want to be especially mindful of, and useful to, the *less* experienced reader.

The Guardian is not following anyone's Party Line nor is it aligned with any particular demographic sub-grouping. We *will not refuse* a piece because of the "political" point of view it reflects or (to the limit of Statutory Libel) because "someone" will "be offended."

We take the broadest possible view of what constitutes appropriate material

*EQUIPMENT *LEGAL and SOCIAL ISSUES

*RELATIONSHIPS *ROLES *SCENARIOS,

*TECHNIQUES *CRAFTS and SKILLS

HEALTH and SAFETY CONCERNS

Almost anything touching on BDSM, Fetish, Power Exchange, might be a successful article. We also buy "filler" pieces: humorous anecdotes, tips and hints, cartoons, etc..

Work can be submitted typewritten, or as an ASCII file in PC or MAC format, or in an email message. Please *do not send* text formatted in a program. (eg. Word, Word Perfect)

Payment: We pay — not lavishly, but respectably. Please contact us for particulars, including special situations, illustrations, and reprints. Contributors get a copy of the magazine in which their article appears.

We buy one-time serial rights with a one-time reprint provision. Payment is on acceptance, and we try to respond to all submissions within sixty days. SASE required for return.

Style and Content: Factual material, organized sequentially is the first concern, "style" is a bonus. Remember the "5 W's" of Journalism: Who, What, Where, When, and hoW — the "How to Write a Good Term Paper" handbooks? That's the idea.

Citations are Good. If you reference a product or publication, there should be an address and/or phone number, too. Appended Resource Lists are always welcome.

It is probably better to put too many words on paper, than to skip over "the obvious." Clarifying illustration, even crude hand drawings, is always useful.

About "PC Language": Writers needn't feel that they have to obscure their own orientations, alignments or biases — and gender specific pronouns *are* used when a specific person's gender is known, or gender is relevant. Otherwise, we like a style which de-emphasizes gender, polarity, and orientation. We have no problem with the "he/she, her/him" style used in government documents, the "false plural" form, or even the made up pronouns like "(s)he" and "co." Please be mindful that half of humanity is *not* male and at least 10% of it is *not* heterosexual. Try for inclusiveness.

About "Safety" : We assume that our readers are adults and that we, and they, reached maturity by not being "stupid or reckless." *The Guardian* focuses on the pleasure and sensual nature of BDSM and *less* on the dangers, perils and negatives of BDSM play. If there are some safety or health issues not readily apparent, they may need to be included. But we will not belabor the obvious.

DEADLINES:

The next issue is #34 with a deadline in mid-June for Summer publication. If you have an article that you want to be considered for this issue, call or write to let us know — the sooner the better.

If you miss the deadline, we will still be buying and paying as we go. In effect, we've got to worry about deadlines ... you can just work to your own schedule.

ARTWORK AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists and illustrators are invited to send samples of their work by way of self-introduction. Almost all illustration will be commissioned for particular articles. Possible cover art, centerfold photo-essays and folios will be considered on their own merits. We want to project enjoyment, respect, safe-and-sane practice, and consensuality — or at least *not* communicate the reverse.

We are *not* in the market for "eye candy," rigid bondage/genitorture studies or depictions of atrocities. Work may be submitted in MAC or WINDOWS disk formats. If photographs are accepted, we may ask to use the negative for proper reproduction — and, of course, Model Releases in keeping with the law.

The Factual, Practical Journal of BDSM Realities.

With Issue #31, we started our second decade of *The Guardian*. Readers learned about the use of the voice in scene, more about Flogging, saw how to Hide a Dungeon, how to Soundproof it, took an Eti-Quiz, kept up with legal cases.

In Issue 32, readers learned about two methods of FireCupping, How to Tame a Brat Submissive, more about Flogging from "Adam Selene," and about the Joys and Challenges of Domination from a famous professional, as well as a comprehensive Bibliography of essential works for every BDSM library.

In addition to feature articles, each issue of *The Guardian* may carry: Book, CD or Video Reviews, S/Mart Shopper hints, Unexpected Sources for BDSM Toys, s/m-oriented News and Ads from the Mainstream, called "We Can't Make These Things Up!", Updates on Legal Cases, Letters from readers ... and so much more!

(It does NOT have: fiction, fantasy or poetry. And, NO "eye-candy" pix of hunks or babes just to fill space!)

Some of the topics explored in previous issues:

How to articles on: Flogging, Plaster Casting, Hiding a Toy Cabinet, Building a Spanking Bench, Portable Stocks, Making a Belt into a pair of Cuffs; A Wrist Collar, Making Your Own Poppers ...

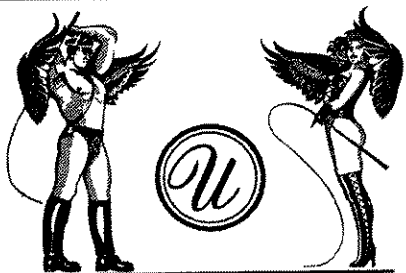
Relationship articles on: Handling the Personals, Views of a Lifestyle Submissive Man and a "Gorean-style" Slavegirl, Safewords, Lives & Loves of Pirates, Knights, Samurai. "Slave" Auctions, Slave Behavior & Contracts.

Discussions of: Naval and Military Discipline; Consent as a Defense, Updates on Legal Cases, Perils of Public Play; Why a US Naval Capt. would *not* flog his crewmen.

Practical articles about: Caning, Spanking, How to Bind Wrists, Why Rubber is Such a Turn-on, Playing with Rubber Bands, Mummification, Enemation, Intro to Fisting, Playing with Wax and Candles, Lotions and Potions and Electricity.



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